

Palestinian recruits leave for training

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (AFP) — A first batch of Palestinian police recruits were given an emotional send-off here Wednesday as they left for training at the Cairo police academy. Family and friends turned out as the two dozen recruits piled into an Israeli bus draped with Palestinian flags and headed for Egypt, where they will spend three months. The Gazans, who are under 30 years old, have completed high school and boast clean Israeli police records, were to travel by road through the Rafah border post. Ibrahim Muhna, 55, a member of a committee charged with creating a police force in an autonomous Gaza Strip, said the first recruits to receive training in Egypt would provide security to top Palestinian officials.

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Israel must destroy nuclear arms — Baz

CAIRO (AFP) — A top Egyptian official has called for Israel to scrap its undeclared nuclear arsenal as part of the flourishing peace process in the Middle East. Osama Al Baz, political advisor to President Hosni Mubarak, told official Cairo Radio that weapons of mass destruction in the region should be destroyed if a lasting peace was to be achieved. It was "vital" for Israel to eliminate its nuclear arsenal, he said, adding that "Israel must make a decision on this without delay." Israel has never admitted it possesses nuclear weapons, but experts believe the Jewish state has amassed a formidable nuclear arsenal with the help of the United States and other western countries.

Iran weekly banned

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian authorities have closed a Tehran municipality weekly for allegedly publishing articles favourable to the West. Kayhan newspaper reported Wednesday. No official reasons were given for the suspension of Hamshahri, but Kayhan said it was promoting Western culture. Hamshahri, which is owned by Tehran's Mayor Gholamhussein Karbaschi, generally deals with social problems — particularly those affecting young people. Hamshahri also publishes a popular morning daily under the same name.

Bomb kills two on Pakistani bus

LAHORE, Pakistan (R) — A bomb exploded aboard a crowded bus in central Pakistan Wednesday, killing two people and seriously injuring nine, police said. A local police official said a bomb caused the powerful explosion near the front of the bus that killed two passengers in Sherokana village about 25 kilometres south of the Punjab provincial capital of Lahore. Nine people were seriously injured, including one man who remained in critical condition after both his legs were amputated, the official said by telephone from the nearby town of Kasur. Many others were slightly hurt. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the blast. The police official said the attack could be an attempt to sabotage general elections set for Oct. 6.

Rafsanjani, Yeltsin discuss conflicts

NICOSIA (AP) — President Hashemi Rafsanjani of Iran and Boris Yeltsin of Russia discussed the conflicts in Azerbaijan and Tajikistan by telephone on Wednesday, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported. Their conversation came amid efforts to defuse the explosive situation created by the advance of Armenian forces outside the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave in Azerbaijan and the spread of fighting close to the Iranian and Turkish borders. Representatives from Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh began talks in Moscow Sunday. They have agreed to renew a shaky ceasefire and to continue peace talks aimed at ending their five-year conflict.

Israelis, PLO to meet at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Israel's U.N. ambassador and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's envoy to the world body are expected to meet for the first time next week, the Israeli delegation spokesman said Wednesday. "We are hoping to have a meeting sometime next week," spokesman Avner Tavori said, adding that Ambassador Gad Yacobi and Palestinian envoy Nasser Al Kidwa would meet at U.N. headquarters in New York. Mr. Yacobi would like to discuss among other topics the approximately 30 resolutions condemning Israel that the General Assembly adopted at the request of Arab states, the spokesman said. Certain Arab countries would support a freezing of these resolutions, said some U.N. diplomats. A text, adopted in 1975, equating Zionism with racism, was abrogated late in 1991 in the aftermath of the Madrid peace conference. Earlier Wednesday, a high-ranking Israeli official said Israeli diplomats had been authorised Monday to meet with PLO representative anywhere in the world.

King welcomes accord, hopes all concerned will shoulder responsibilities

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday described the agreement signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as a tremendous breakthrough in the search for peace in the Middle East and expressed hope that all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict would shoulder their responsibilities to achieving peace in the region.

In an interview with Cable News Network (CNN), the King also said Jordan and Israel, which on Tuesday signed an agenda outlining the principles for a peace agreement, face many problems to be tackled between them.

Following is a transcript of the interview:
Question: We have seen an enormous breakthrough this week between Israel and the PLO, but this has not dealt with issues as the future of Jerusalem and the Palestinians in the diaspora. Will the complexities of these issues cause the momentum for peace to falter?

Answer: I certainly hope not. And I believe that the breakthrough has been a tremendous one and one of promise, and it is my hope that everyone will approach their responsibilities towards the future generations and overcome all these difficulties.
Q: When you spoke to President (Hafez) Al Assad (of Syria) (was there any hint, have you found any hint, on moving on their



track?
A: There is determination on the part of our Syrian brethren to continue as well as to see what can be achieved regarding their own agenda and their own problems that they would like to resolve (and) if that would be possible to do so before too long.
What we search for is a comprehensive peace in the entire region.
Q: How would the existence of a Palestinian entity, possible Palestinian state, affect Jordan, not demographically but psychologically, given the enormous Palestinian population here in Jordan?

A: In Jordan, the people of this country are members of one family with the same rights, regardless of their origins until such time as we figure out later on if any would choose otherwise or if any would have any other ideas regarding the future. But until then, we are one family, one people, and will continue to be. And incidentally the question of return or compensation is the one that has to be addressed obviously in the coming period. Whether it is the Palestinian who has become part of this country or any Palestinian anywhere else in the world, that does not affect his rights regarding the optional return or compensation.

Q: What exactly in terms of compensation are you asking for?
A: I am not asking for anything. This has to be worked out. And it is of two levels: On the level of people, regarding their properties and rights there, if they choose to exercise their rights, and on the other hand I believe that it is their right to have. We were right to have accepted and pushed forward the multilateral talks earlier on and there was not much appreciation on that at the time in our region.

What we wanted to see is what could be done at the level of the world and of the level of all concerned within the region on a broader scale. Then there is the

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Arafat returns to Tunis to face continued opposition

Combined agency dispatches

TUNIS — Yasser Arafat was locked in a tug-of-war Wednesday with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders opposed to his peace plan with Israel, as both sides sought to muster support among Palestinian leaders and Arab governments.

Mr. Arafat, 64, returned to Tunis from Washington, where on Monday he signed a landmark peace accord with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, to face the deepest split in the PLO since it was formed nearly 30 years ago.

Ranged against him are prominent Palestinian figures, including longtime comrades who had backed him in the past. PLO officials said Mr. Arafat was expected to convene the ruling Central Committee of his mainstream Fatah group, biggest in the PLO, as soon as possible in a bid to convince opponents to rally behind him.

On arrival, Mr. Arafat said the

peace accord was "an important and essential achievement on the path to accomplishing a comprehensive peace in the Middle East."

"God willing, it will pave the way for similar peace accord on all Arab fronts."

"It started with Palestine. Yesterday it was Jordan, and later on it will be Syria and Lebanon," Mr. Arafat predicted. The PLO headquarters are in Tunis, but Mr. Arafat plans to move soon to the West Bank town of Jericho, which will be granted limited self-rule along with the Gaza Strip in the first phase of the peace plan.

He was greeted at the airport, amid tight security, by hundreds of Palestinian supporters.

But he faces widespread opposition, not only among PLO leaders and hardline factions, but among many of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

Opponents complain the peace plan does not guarantee the creation of an independent Palestinian state or the return of re-

fugees from the 1948 and 1967 Middle East wars, and ignores the crucial and emotive issue of the status of Jerusalem.

Saeed Erakat, a member of the Palestinian negotiating team who accompanied Mr. Arafat, said the trip was very important for PLO-U.S. relations.

"I think the Americans have discovered Yasser Arafat — the man they had dehumanised, the man they associated with terrorism for so many years. Now they saw a human being, a man with a cause," Dr. Erakat said. "We have made friends there."

On arrival, Mr. Arafat praised U.S. President Bill Clinton, with whom he met privately after Monday's ceremony.

"I can say now that the Palestinian people have a good friend at the White House," said Mr. Arafat.

He described his talks with Mr. Clinton as "warm, positive and cordial."

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A Jewish man and Palestinian residents of Jerusalem's Old City look at a Palestinian flag, hung with Jewish flags (AFP photo)

Rabin: Syria must prove it wants peace

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin hailed the possibility of true peace between Israel and the Palestinians, Jordan and Lebanon on Wednesday but said Syria still had to demonstrate it wanted peace.

"Syria has to demonstrate its desire for peace," Mr. Rabin told Israel's army radio in a Jewish new year's eve address. Earlier, on his return to Israel via a surprise stop in Morocco from Washington where he had clinched deals towards openings to peace with the PLO and Jordan, Mr. Rabin accused Syria of offering peace with one hand and conflict with the other.

He told Israel Radio that Damascus harboured guerrillas opposed to the Middle East peace process. "So one hand is as if extended in peace, the other hand opens fire on you," he said. Mr. Rabin said Syria had prevented Lebanese troops from deploying to sufficient force to curb guerrillas in South Lebanon.

He told army radio that Israel could conclude a peace treaty with Lebanon if Lebanon was allowed to deploy its troops just above Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in Lebanon and proved it could prevent anti-Israeli guerrilla attacks.

"Regarding Lebanon, I think it is possible in a relatively short period of time to reach peace," Mr. Rabin said. He said Lebanese troops would have to deploy north of the "security zone" and "prove over six months that it (had) separated Hizbollah and the rest of the terrorist organisations from their weapons and had been able to prevent any hostile operations against us."

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Hijacked Russian jet lands in Norway

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Hijackers brandishing grenades forced a Russian jetliner with 52 people aboard to land in Norway on Wednesday. Police said the air pirates, believed to be Iranians, asked for political asylum. The twin-engine Tupolev-134 was en route from Azerbaijan when it was hijacked. It was forced to land in Kiev, Ukraine, to take on fuel and an English-speaking Ukrainian navigator before flying to Norway. After the plane landed at the sealed-off and darkened Gardermoen Charter Airport, one man left the jet, was driven to the control tower and then driven back to the plane five minutes later, the national news agency NTB reported. "They wanted to make sure they were really in Oslo," said a police spokesman. "Negotiations are going on in English and Russian." The hijackers asked for political asylum, said the regional police chief. The policeman who drove the hijacker to the control tower said the man displayed a hand grenade and then returned it to his pocket. The pilot said the hijackers threatened the crew with hand grenades and explosives, according to a Russian security spokesman. A police said there were at least three, and possibly four hijackers.

Palestinian killed; Gaza Strip shut

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The army on Wednesday announced a four-day closure of the Gaza Strip for the Jewish new year weekend, and a Palestinian was killed in a clash in the occupied territories in which four Israeli soldiers also were wounded.

The closure barring Palestinians from entering Israel is a routine practice on Jewish holidays, as a precaution to prevent violence.

This year, apparently in deference to the peace accord signed Monday between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), it was not being applied to the occupied West Bank. Most violence lately against Israelis has originated in Gaza.

The measure went in effect at 1400 (1200 GMT) Wednesday and lasts until 0300 a.m. (0100 GMT) Sunday, Sept. 19. The army said that the movement would only be in one direction, and that Palestinians would be permitted to return from Israel to Gaza during the holiday.

After two suicide bomb attacks this week, thousands of police and civil guards were deployed

and warnings stepped up to the public to be on the alert over the long holiday weekend.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal has warned that a surge in attacks was feared in the coming days. Islamic fundamentalists are spearheading opposition to the peace accord.

Their campaign to scupper the agreement saw four Israeli soldiers wounded overnight by Palestinians, one of whom was killed, in a shootout at Hebron on the West Bank.

On Tuesday a Palestinian blew himself up with explosives outside Gaza police headquarters and another was shot dead after "kniving a soldier."

Another suicide bomber killed himself when he crashed his car into a prison van on the Gaza Strip on Sunday. The same day a Palestinian who killed a bus driver was shot dead before blowing up the vehicle.

In a conventional ambush three Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza on Sunday.

The human bombs have failed to do more than lightly wound a couple of Israelis but the new

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Polls show majority of Israelis back accord

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV — Polls published by two newspapers Wednesday showed that about 60 per cent of Israelis support the peace agreement with the Palestinians, but that nearly half also believed it could bring an upsurge in violence.

A survey in the Yediot Ahronot daily found 61 per cent favoured the accord signed Monday in Washington granting Palestinians self-rule in the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Thirty-seven per cent were opposed and two per cent were undecided, it said. In all 523 Israelis were interviewed by the Dahaf research group. The poll had a four per cent margin of error.

Yediot said Wednesday's results showed a three per cent rise in support for the plan over a survey published Friday, the day an agreement formalising Israeli-PLO recognition was signed.

A survey published Monday by the Jerusalem Post daily also found about 60 per cent of Israelis behind the agreement.

A poll in the daily Maariv Wednesday found 58 per cent supported the agreement, with 31 per cent opposed, and the rest undecided.

In addition, 47 per cent of 501 Israelis asked by Maariv about whether they expected an in-

crease in "terrorism," said they did, while 20 per cent replied in the negative.

It said that 25 per cent expected a decrease in "terrorism" because of the peace deal, while the rest were undecided.

Maariv gave no margin of error.

In Washington, a Cable News Network poll showed Tuesday that 65 per cent of Israelis supported the autonomy deal, but most had mixed feelings about its future.

It found that 51 per cent believed it would increase Palestinian violence in coming months.

The leader of Israel's Likud opposition party accused the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) of planning to use a future Palestinian state to pursue its war against Israel.

Benjamin Netanyahu said on Britain's Sky Television he was disappointed at PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's speech in Washington Monday at the signing of the Israeli-PLO peace deal.

"I had hoped that he would come with a message of genuine reconciliation and not what we believe was his intention — that is to get a PLO state under the guise of peace in order to continue a future war," he said.

Mr. Netanyahu, interviewed in Israel from London, accused Mr. Arafat of renegeing on what he

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Jordan and the economics of the autonomy agreement

By Wafa Amr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian officials and businessmen expect the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israeli accord to adversely affect the Jordanian economy — at least in the short run — and to diminish the Kingdom's previously anticipated big economic role in the occupied territories.

However, in order to minimise any present and future damage to its economy, Jordan intends to be involved in a process that would maximise its economic benefits from the de facto limitations imposed by the nature of the agreement.

Both Palestinian and Jordanian officials say close cooperation and coordination on equal footing between the Palestinian self-rule authorities and Jordan would reap future benefits for both sides.

Western diplomats expect Jordan to benefit from peace dividends in the long run. They said Jordan's economic condi-

tions would improve when regional tensions subside, although in some areas Israel might dominate.

But officials ask: Would peace dividends achieve economic prosperity or economic development for Jordan, considering that the implications of both are not the same.

The immediate effects of the PLO-Israeli accord have partially contributed to temporary slowdown in Jordan's economy, according to bankers and real estate agents (see story on page 3).

Although officials contended that it is still premature to predict the economic ramifications of the PLO-Israeli accord, the most immediate concern was the possibility of Israeli infiltration of Arab markets by using the Palestinian self-rule area as a bridge.

Jordanian officials said they want to reach agreements with the Palestinian self-rule authorities and with Israel, but they refuse to normalise relations with Israel before a final

settlement is reached.

Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Al Anani said that an interim period is required to test Israeli intentions towards Arabs, and not vice versa. He said that Jordan refuses to deal with Israel on the basis that it would monopolise the benefits from the Palestinian economy and try to dominate Arab economies.

Officials said Jordan, at this stage, does not want to deal directly with the Israeli economy. Instead it wants to be able to trade freely with the Palestinian self-rule authorities without Israeli restriction on its exports. But the fact that free trade exists between the Palestinian and Israeli markets, would de facto make Jordan an exporter to Israel.

"Israel benefits from free trade with the occupied territories because it is a net exporter to the occupied territories, and it wants to bar Jordanian exports or put tariffs on Jordanian goods entering the occu-

piated territories so that they will not enter the Israeli market freely," a Jordanian official said. "They are trying to have the cake and eat it too."

The official, who did not want to be identified by name, said the PLO-Israeli agreement gave Palestinians jurisdiction on direct taxes and not indirect taxes, and that is why they want to subject Jordanian goods to certain regulations on the bridges, such as security checks, tariffs, specifications etc.

"We cannot accept Israeli tariffs on our exports to the Palestinian economy, we have to look into that situation, and I think since tariffs are a detail we don't know much about, it will have to be negotiated," Dr. Anani said.

He said during the ninth round of talks, the Jordanian delegation to the Middle East peace talks submitted a list of Jordanian commodities that it wants to export to the occupied territories: "Israel proposed Jordan export goods worth \$15

million. But this is a very low ceiling, and those are goods which Israel does not levy taxes on anyway, such as head-dresses and some food stuffs."

According to Dr. Anani Jordan could export goods worth of \$300 million, such as raw materials, construction materials, home appliances, electric goods, certain food items, petroleum products, electricity, etc. These make up 30 per cent of Jordan's exports.

"We think it is to the advantage of the occupied territories to have much closer economic ties with Jordan and a higher volume of trade because Jordan can supply a great deal of those goods to the Palestinian market for much lower prices than Israelis."

He said that if Palestinians continue to import Israeli commodities, parts of the subsidies going to the Palestinian economy will eventually be indirect subsidies for the Israeli economy via trade.

Officials said they expect vicious competition with Israel

for the Palestinian market. Jordanians will be negotiating with both the Israelis and the Palestinians on issues that will involve the three sides. There will be bilateral issues between Jordan and the Palestinians, and Jordan and the Israelis as well.

"There is no issue that is going to be purely bilateral during the interim arrangements, everything will have some dimension of trilateralism," one official said. But Jordanian officials are sceptical of achieving free trade with Israel because the terms of trade would be to Israel's advantage.

A PLO official said that the Palestinian self-rule authority would determine measures of economic dealings with its neighbours, bearing in mind its own interests.

Officials said Jordan's economy was harmed by the fact that over the past two decades, Jordan imported Palestinian goods but was barred by Israel from exporting to the occupied

territories.

"Trade between the West and East Banks of Jordan has always been in favour of the West Bank," Dr. Anani said. He said Jordan imported Palestinian products and treated them as internal trade, and the value of goods coming from the occupied territories into Jordan reached at the maximum \$100 million annually at certain stages, but during the intifada years it has dropped to about \$25 million.

A Palestinian economist said that although the trade balance was in favour of the West Bank, Palestinian agricultural produce was not granted preferential treatment. He said even before the 1988 disengagement decision, Jordan imposed "protectionist" barriers on West Bank agricultural produce which were aimed at protecting Jordanian farmers. Furthermore, Palestinians were required to get prior

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Gulf states to join aid for Palestinians

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Wealthy Gulf Arab states are set to join an international effort to secure emergency aid for Palestinians when they run their own economy under an autonomy agreement with Israel.

The six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states are in contact to determine how much to subscribe to a proposed aid package for the Gaza Strip when it takes shape, Gulf officials said.

"The contacts are designed to coordinate the assistance but there are no specific proposals yet until the extent of the international package is determined," said a GCC official, who asked not to be named.

Although most of them still blame the Palestine Liberation Organisation for supporting Iraq during the Gulf war, the GCC members have backed the PLO-Israeli accord on limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

The two sides signed the deal Monday in an historic ceremony in Washington.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, in another reconciliation effort, made his first contact with Saudi Arabia since the Gulf crisis.

Mr. Arafat told the Egyptian satellite television station late Monday he had sent a letter to Saudi King Fahd about the accord and that the king was behind the GCC's support.

"When I met Sultan Qaboos of Oman last week, he informed me King Fahd was behind this important statement by the GCC foreign ministers," he said.

Prince Bandar Ben Sultan, the Saudi ambassador to the United States, told an Israeli paper: "We support the peace process between Israel and the Arab countries... proof of our country's involvement and our engagement will come out in broad daylight soon."

PLO and Israeli leaders have stressed that economic revival in the autonomous territories was

vital for the survival of the peace deal.

"Peace remains fragile without a strong economy and the economy cannot improve without peace. Both are interdependent," said Youssef Khalifa, economics professor at the Emirates University.

Economic performance in the territories has steadily worsened due to Israeli occupation, the six-year-old Palestinian uprising and the Gulf war, according to official Arab reports.

The worst stage was recorded after 1987, when the gross domestic product began to decline rapidly due to the uprising and strikes. From \$1.7 billion that year, the GDP plummeted to \$1.2 billion in 1990 and was expected to have continued declining the following two years.

After peaking at \$290 million in 1989, remittances plunged to \$150 million in 1990 due to the Gulf war. Public and private investment dipped by more than five per cent while the total national income to \$1.9 billion in 1990 from \$2.6 billion in 1987.

The PLO has chalked out a revival plan to inject \$11.6 billion in the territories until the year 2000. The World Bank said \$3 billion were needed in emergency aid.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said last week King Fahd had promised to contribute to the aid package. Sultan Qaboos has also assured Mr. Arafat of assistance.

The GCC states of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have limited key aid donors despite a sharp decline in their oil earnings. They have provided more than \$2 billion to the PLO since 1970.

Diplomats said Kuwait was expected to join the aid efforts despite its rift with Mr. Arafat. The UAE, the third largest Gulf aid donor, also said it would support the package.

Clinton considers meeting of donors

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton said Tuesday he was considering calling a donors' meeting of interested European, Asian and Arab countries to put together a financial package for the Palestinians.

A day after presiding over a historic handshake between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, Mr. Clinton said he was looking for ways to keep up the momentum of the Middle Eastern breakthrough.

He said a good example was a surprise visit on Tuesday to Morocco's King Hassan by Mr. Rabin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres flew to Rabat hours after signing an accord at the White House with the PLO on Palestinian self-rule in the Israel-occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Mr. Clinton said he hoped other Arab leaders would make similar conciliatory moves toward Israel.

"I was very pleased because I think the king may have set an example which I hope other Arab states will consider following now to try to continue just to establish a dialogue," Mr. Clinton told a joint news conference with visiting Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating.

The Palestinians will require a larger sum once they begin taking care of their own needs.

Under the Israel-PLO agreement, authority for education and health, social welfare, direct taxation and tourism is transferred on October 13 from Israel to "authorized Palestinian" in the West Bank and Gaza.

The World Bank proposed on Sunday a \$3 billion, 10-year economic development plan for the West Bank and Gaza Strip designed to increase the chances for a lasting peace.

Mr. Clinton told the news conference that his administration

was trying to organise "an appropriate level of investment."

"In that regard, we're looking primarily at maybe having a donors' meeting, trying to bring in interested European countries and Asian countries and Arab countries to talk about how we can put together the kind of package we ought to have," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Clinton also said the United States was trying to further the peace process by encouraging further political contacts between Arabs and Israelis and helping Palestinians address practical problems of self-rule such as elections and economic endeavours.

Last weekend Mr. Clinton said he expected most of the aid would come from Japan, the European Community, Scandinavia and the oil-rich Gulf states.

In a special report on the occupied territories, the World Bank saw an urgent need for a major upgrading of public services to improve living conditions in the West Bank and Gaza — new power plants, water and wastewater projects, roads and schools.

UNESCO offers help

A U.N. agency said Tuesday it would help bolster the Israel-PLO peace accord by offering assistance in the region in the fields of education, science and culture.

Federico Mayor, director general of the Paris-based United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), hailed the accord in a statement, and added:

"Peace must be built day by day on the basis of mutual trust taught by education, which forges the mind, by the exchange of scientific and technological knowledge, which helps development, and by respect for each other's culture."

UNESCO, present in the Middle East in times of war, would continue its work there in the future, the statement added.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Iranian daily calls for Arafat's death

TEHRAN (AFP) — An Iranian newspaper Wednesday condemned Yasser Arafat to death for his accord with Israel on limited Palestinian autonomy. "By handing over the land of Palestine to the occupiers, Arafat and his accomplices have betrayed their people and Islam. So they have to be punished," said Jomhuri Islami, a daily close to Muslim fundamentalist hardliners. "The punishment for treason is death, and no power can stop a nation from exercising its will." The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader also faces death threats from Palestinian hardliners who have accused him of a sell-out with his deal on limited interim autonomy. The Iranian media have strongly condemned the deal between Israel and the PLO, which was signed in Washington on Monday, and given extensive coverage of opposition to the accord in the Islamic World. "This event is not a sign of Israel's might but of discord among Muslims," President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Tuesday.

10,000 litres of alcohol seized in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Police have seized more than 10,000 litres of alcoholic drinks and arrested six people in western Iran, Jomhuri Islami newspaper said Wednesday. The seizure followed raids on four hide-outs in the city of Khorramabad, the paper said. After the 1979 Islamic revolution which toppled the pro-Western Shah, Iran banned the drinking and sale of alcohol.

U.S. concerned about Saudi religious persecution

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has expressed concern about religious persecution in Saudi Arabia to the highest levels of the Saudi government, the State Department said Tuesday. Spokesman Mike McCurry disclosed this when asked about an Amnesty International report alleging that persecution of Shiite Muslims and Christians in Saudi Arabia has increased dramatically since 1990. Mr. McCurry said he was aware of the report but had no specific comment on it. He said the State Department generally uses such reports in evaluating human rights conditions in other countries. The Amnesty International report, released Monday, said hundreds of Shiites and Christians have been tortured and flogged. "Christians meeting to worship are often the target of arrest, detention and torture or ill-treatment at the hands of Saudi Arabia's security and religious authorities," the report said. Mr. McCurry said the United States supports religious freedom and has made its views and concerns known to senior Saudi authorities.

Former Somali police chief arrested

MOGADISHU (AFP) — U.S. soldiers have arrested a former Somali police chief, Italian sources said Wednesday. United Nations spokesmen declined to confirm or deny the report. Ahmad Gaid, a former police chief under ousted dictator Mohammed Siad Barre and longtime mayor of Mogadishu, was arrested by soldiers of the U.S. Quick Reaction Force. The arrest came in the first U.S. raid in north Mogadishu, which is controlled by self-styled President Ali Mahdi Mohammed, the arch-enemy of warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid, wanted for the June 5 killings of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers. Mr. Ali Mahdi was named interim president for two years at a 1991 meeting of Somali faction leaders in neighbouring Djibouti, though many of them repudiated the appointment weeks later. His mandate expired in July, but Mr. Ali Mahdi said in a statement that he still considered himself president, fighting between his fighters and C.A. Aidid's forces devastated much of Mogadishu after Mr. Siad Barre was overthrown in 1991.

Enraged Algeria farmer takes axe to attackers

ALGIERS (R) — An Algerian farmer, enraged by three armed Muslim fundamentalists trying to kidnap his son after the farmer refused to feed them, killed one with an axe and wounded another, official sources said on Tuesday. The 48-year-old farmer grabbed a shotgun and an automatic pistol from the trio and opened fire as they fled, the official news agency APS quoted security sources as saying. Security forces in Medea, some 60 kilometres south of Algiers, chased the three after the attack late last week and found Mohammed Boudina, 38, fatally wounded from axe blows. He died shortly afterwards. Boudina, who had worked at Algiers port, was wanted for several attacks and a hold-up.

Russian jets attack north Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — Russian jets have launched air raids into northern Afghanistan from neighbouring Tajikistan, setting fire to forests near the frontier, state-run radio Kabul said. The air raids on Monday and Tuesday damaged large swathes of forest around the town of Chah Ab, about 15 kilometres from the border with the troubled central Asian republic of Tajikistan, the radio said. The Russian jets flew menacingly over border villages but there were no reports of casualties, the radio, monitored in Pakistan, said. Kabul says more than 200 civilians have been killed by Russian troops backing Tajik forces in cross-border bombardments in retaliation for Tajik rebel incursions from Afghan territory since July.

Ghana: Africans should review ties with Israel

ACCRA (R) — Ghana Tuesday welcomed the peace accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation and said it was time for African countries to review their relations with the Jewish state. "The government of Ghana believes that it is now opportune to review the 1973 OAU (Organisation of African Unity) decision which led to the severance of relations with Israel by member states of the organisation," an official statement carried by the Ghana News Agency said. Ghana's relations with Israel were among the best in Africa before the break. Israel helped up Ghana Airways, the Black Star Shipping Line and the state Construction company. The statement praised Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin "whose courage, foresight, determination and outstanding statesmanship have made this important breakthrough possible."

Prime minister's forces bombard Kabul

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Fighters backing Afghanistan's Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar pounded the Afghan capital of Kabul with heavy artillery for several hours, causing numerous civilian deaths and injuries, state-run radio Kabul reported. The tank and artillery attack on the east side of the devastated city began Tuesday afternoon and lasted into the evening, according to the radio report, monitored in neighbouring Pakistan. It appeared to be the heaviest fighting in recent weeks, but no casualty figures or additional details were available. Mr. Hekmatyar and his Hezb-e-Islami faction remain bitter rivals of President Burhanuddin Rabbani, whose Jamiat-e-Islami supporters control most of the war-ravaged capital.

U.N. to assess Kuwaiti compensation for Iraqis

KUWAIT (R) — A U.N. envoy will visit the Iraq-Kuwait border on Thursday to evaluate assets of 63 Iraqi farm families who lost their land when the frontier was redrawn, a U.N. official said. "Thomas Hammer will arrive from New York on Sept. 16 to evaluate the compensation for the Iraqi farmers," United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) spokesman Abdul Latif Qabbaj said by telephone. Kuwait said it may consider providing compensation to Iraqis who ended up on the wrong side after the U.N. demarcated the 207 kilometres border after the 1991 Gulf war. The U.N. says the demarcation, which defines for the first time a boundary that the U.N. says Iraq and Kuwait accepted in 1963, clarifies that the old frontier lay a short distance northeast of an informal border used over the years. The move hands Kuwait a part of Umm Qasr town, in which the 63 Iraqi farming families lived, part of an Iraqi naval base and part of an oilfield. Iraq does not recognise the new border but the U.N. says it is obliged to abide by decisions of the U.N. demarcation committee.

Illiterate Saudi weds college woman for \$600,000

RIYADH (R) — An illiterate Saudi man paid 2.28 million riyals (\$600,000) to wed a third-year university woman, a high price even by Saudi standards. Okaz newspaper said the man, who was not named, could not even sign his name on the marriage contract and had to seal it with his thumb print. "It is only the price of two pieces of property," he was quoted as saying. Sheikh Mohammed Abdul Rahman Moushaid, the Muslim clergyman who wed the two in the Holy City of Mecca, said the dowry was the highest he ever witnessed. The total included the undisclosed dowry, gifts and furniture for the bride's home.

Israeli population reaches 5.28 million

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's population is 5.28 million, Israeli newspapers reported Wednesday, on the eve of the Jewish new year. The reports, quoting the central bureau of statistics, said there were 4,305 million Jews and 975,000 Arabs in the country. The Jews make up about 85 per cent of the population while Arabs account for 19.5 per cent, they said. Israel's population grew by 124,000 people, or 2.4 per cent since last year, the reports said. Some of the growth is accounted for by immigration including 76,000, mostly from the former Soviet Union.

Euro-Socialists disown Libya protocol

STRASBOURG (AFP) — The Socialist group in the European Parliament Wednesday disowned a cooperation protocol with Libya signed by fellow socialist Henry Saby of France in his capacity as head of parliament's committee on cooperation and development. Mr. Saby was in Tripoli last week. The official Libyan news agency JANA reported him as calling for a lifting of "unjust measures" imposed by a U.N. embargo ordered in 1992. The parliamentary group here said he had no mandate to sign a protocol on parliamentary cooperation with Libya while the U.N. sanctions affecting all ties with Libya were in force. The MPs also said his comments were unwarranted.

Turkish minister to visit Azerbaijan

ANKARA (AFP) — The Turkish foreign minister will pay a working visit to Azerbaijan Friday as a guest of the interim president to discuss the situation in the Caucasus, it was officially announced here Wednesday. Hikmet Cetin will be accompanied by a Turkish Red Crescent delegation which will try to assess the needs of "almost a million Azeris who have been displaced because of the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan," Foreign Office spokesman Farhat Ataman told journalists. Mr. Cetin's talks will centre on bilateral relations, on the "crisis created by the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan," and on the necessity of finding a solution to the conflict in line with U.N. Resolution 853 on the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian forces in Azerbaijan, Mr. Ataman said.

Kurds kill 21 soldiers; hostages head home

ANKARA (R) — Kurdish rebels killed 21 Turkish soldiers in southeast Turkey overnight and seven Western tourists freed by Kurdish guerrillas headed home on Wednesday. Security sources said Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) fighters killed nine soldiers in a raid on a military post in Siirt province. Eleven died in a PKK attack on a military post in Van province. One was killed in a clash in PKK in eastern Turkey Tuesday, began their journey home. diplomats said. The seven were released near the remote eastern town of Dogubeyazit after being held for more than a month. A Swiss diplomat said a Swiss couple, Nico and Anna Plant, were on their way to Lugano in a chartered plane which stopped briefly in Ankara after a flight from the eastern city of Van.

No U.N. talks on Cyprus until January

NICOSIA (R) — President Glafcos Clearchides of Cyprus said Wednesday he did not expect any resumption of U.N.-sponsored talks to end the island's 19-year division before January. "The general feeling is that there will be no talks before next January," Mr. Clearchides told the annual general meeting of the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Libya signals Pan Am case cooperation

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Libya has said the two men accused of blowing up a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, could go on trial in Britain or the United States providing legal procedures were fair and U.N. sanctions were lifted as soon as they surrendered.

In a letter delivered to Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, the Libyan government set out 17 demands on due process of law if the two surrendered.

The 40-page document, parts of which were obtained by Reuters Tuesday, also asked for concrete pledges from the United States and Britain that sanctions would be lifted rather than suspended as soon as the men surrendered.

In addition, it said that if the two men, Abdel Basset Ali Mohammed Al Megrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah, went to trial Libya should not be subject to compensation payments or have any of its assets seized.

U.S. and British diplomats said guarantees could probably be given on the legal procedures if the two surrendered, presumably to Scotland. But they said they would have more difficulties on sanctions and other Libyan government demands.

Libya took care to divorce the government from any surrendering of the suspects.

"The fact that there is no valid agreement between Libya and the USA and the UK on the tradition of criminals, Libya cannot force the two suspects to and themselves over to either of the two countries," the letter said.

But it was "up to the suspects to decide whether to appear before the competent court in either of the two countries... and prove that they are not guilty," it added.

Libya's ambassador to Tunisia, Abdul Ati Al Obeidi, who brought the letter, was expected to go to Paris on Wednesday to negotiate with French officials before returning to New York for a U.S. and British response to the document.

"Everything will depend on what they (the accused) and their lawyers will receive on their inquiries," he said on Monday. "In principle they are ready to stand trial."

The United States and Britain in November 1991 issued arrest warrants for the two men, for the alleged planting of the bomb that killed all 259 people aboard Pan Am flight 103 from London to New York as well as 11 people on the ground in Lockerbie.

In April 1992, the Security Council imposed an air and arms embargo against Libya if the two were not handed over. It also demanded Libya cooperate with a French investigation into the mid-air bombing of UTA Flight 772, which blew up over Niger in 1989. All 171 people on board were killed.

In addition, the resolution asked for concrete evidence that Libya had denounced ties with all "terrorist" groups.

More recently, the United States, Britain and France proposed further sanctions including a ban on oil refinery and transport — but not oil drilling — equipment and freezing some Libyan assets if there was no action by October.

Excluded from the assets would be any future oil revenues

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Britain rejects Libyan terms

LONDON (AFP) — Britain Wednesday dismissed Libya's latest conditions for surrender of two men implicated in the 1988 Lockerbie bombing that claimed 270 lives, saying an Oct. 1 compliance deadline remained firm.

A spokesman said the Foreign Office was studying the 40-page letter Libya delivered to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali Tuesday and would be consulting with Dr. Ghali's office.

"But we note that there is no commitment to surrender the accused even if all points in the letter are answered," said the spokesman.

"There is no clear indication that Libya is prepared to comply with the Security Council resolutions."

earned after the new embargo went into force.

In the letter, Libya said the United States and Britain should guarantee not to use demands on "terrorism" as an excuse to continue sanctions.

Libya's requests for legal protection for the suspects included pledges the men would not be questioned by intelligence agents, would not be subject to plea bargaining to reduce their sentence, would not be tortured and would have access to defence lawyers at all times.

Following are the main points of the Libyan letter:

— Queries on how an impartial jury could be selected in view of widespread media coverage.

— Pledges by the United States and Britain that the accused would not be questioned by domestic or foreign intelligence authorities.

— Assurances defence lawyers were present during any questioning and the accused could be visited by members of the United Nations, the Arab League and the Arab Lawyers Union to make sure they were not tortured.

— Assurances they would not be offered plea bargaining "deals" or "enticement" in exchange for a lesser sentence or attempts to turn them into state's witnesses.

— Queries on what would happen if a jury was unable to reach a verdict.

— Assurances the trial would be limited to incidents related to Pan Am Flight 103 only and no other allegations.

— Guarantees the two would return home immediately if they were found innocent or after their sentence ended, if convicted.

— Guarantees they would not be handed over to a third country under any circumstances and regardless of the reasons.

— Requests for negotiations among prosecuting and trial authorities under the supervision of the U.N. Secretary-General to stipulate provisions for their voluntary appearance.

Those pertaining to the Libyan government include:

— Guarantees that no assets or funds be seized as compensation for the airline crash, regardless of the outcome of the trial.

— Pledges to lift Security Council sanctions as soon as the suspects reach a court.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Pif et Hercule
17:45 Goal
18:15 Goopols
19:00 News in French
19:15 Admans
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Too Close for Comfort
21:00 H.E.L.P. Under Force
22:00 News in English
22:20 Movie of the Week: "Blindside"

PRAYER TIMES

04:37 Fajr
06:15 Sunrise
12:31 Dhur
18:47 Ashr
20:05 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 62705
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622566

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

62541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151
Assam International Church Tel. 625256
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 843258
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823924, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Hot and dry weather conditions will continue. There will be light and steady rain becoming drizzle in the night. In Amman, which is cloudy and moderate and calm.

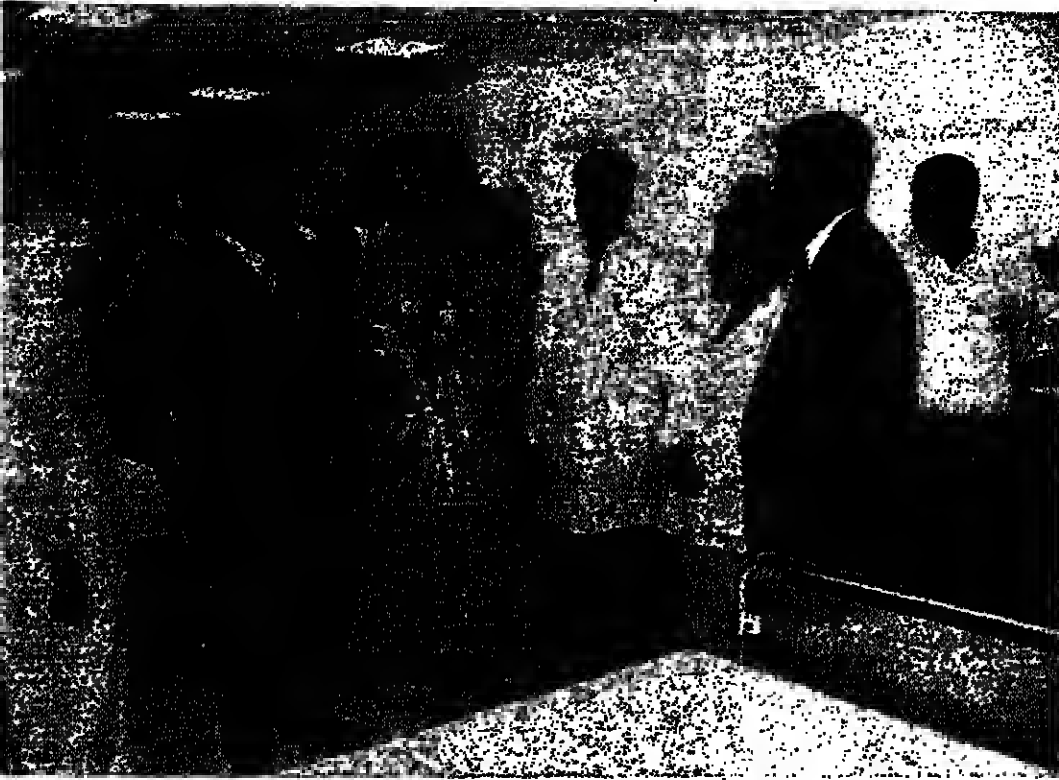
Min./Max. temp. 22/37
Amman 27/40
Dahesh 19/39
Jordan Valley 26/40

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 36.6, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 16 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ahmad Othman 783384
Dr. Adnan Al Zaydun 898140
Dr. Ghaleb Zaidoun 736011
Dr. Youssef Abdo 694916
First pharmacy 661912
Al



Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday visits Al Mafrag Hospital and is briefed by Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas on services offered by some of the hospital's new units (Photo by George Crystal)

Queen visits Al Mafrag Hospital, inspects new kidney dialysis unit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday visited Al Mafrag Hospital and inspected its different wards which serve a population of 160,000 in Al Mafrag governorate.

The Queen inaugurated the hospital's new intensive care and special care baby units, and visited the kidney dialysis section which has recently been established at the hospital with four new dialysis machines donated, through the Queen's efforts, by the French non-governmental organisation, "Transport Humanitaires Sans Frontiers" (THSF).

Queen Noor was briefed on the different services offered by the hospital particularly those of the new dialysis section which has been fully furnished and equipped by the Ministry of Health and will start treating kidney patients on Sunday, Sept. 19.

President of the Friends of the Kidney Patients Society (FKPS) and Al Bashir Hospital Director, Makram Naserwat said there are more than 850 patients with kidney failure problems in Jordan. He added that there is an increase in kidney patients in the Kingdom especially among women of child-bearing age with a record of

multiple pregnancies, and among children with a record of severe infections.

The FKPS, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, will soon launch health education campaigns tackling the prevention of kidney failure problems, he said.

Jordan's expenditure on kidney failure treatment exceeds JD 4 million annually as dialysis services cost about JD 850 per month for each patient. The Ministry of Health provides the dialysis free of charge.

There are only 84 dialysis machines in Jordan: 80 in public hospitals and four in private ones.

Earlier this year, Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHFF) identified areas in Jordan in need of dialysis machines and raised between THSF, the Ministry of Health and FKPS to ensure that the donated machines are installed in areas which lack the service or which need to expand existing services.

THSF donated eight machines to NHFF, four to Al Mafrag Hospital and four will be housed at Al Bashir Hospital in Amman to expand existing services.

NHFF also received from THSF

some medical equipment and a tonne of milk. THSF is a non-governmental, on-profit global humanitarian aid organisation established in 1901.

Queen Noor also visited NHFF's Al Raya Garment Production Scheme which helps Al Mafrag women improve their living standards through gainful sustainable employment.

The project employs more than 40 women who produce good quality, price-competitive garments, costumes and children's clothes mainly sold in the local market through tenders.

Al Raya Garment Production Scheme is one of seven pilot projects which NHFF is implementing under its Women in Development Programme benefiting hundreds of women and their families across the country.

The Queen was accompanied on the visit by Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas, NHFF President In'am Mufti and Mrs. Dababir Al-Dajani, a friend of NHFF.

Queen Noor was received upon arrival at Al Mafrag by the governor, the chief of police there and senior Ministry of Health staff.

King appoints Tamimi as Chief Islamic Justice

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday appointed former Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khazbi Al Tamimi as Chief Islamic Justice, succeeding Sheikh Nuh Salman Al Qudahi who was retired earlier this month.

The King, in a message to Sheikh Tamimi, paid tribute to him and said he would retain his post as advisor to the King on Islamic Affairs in addition to the new post.

King Hussein said he wanted Sheikh Tamimi also to follow up on matters pertaining to the holy places of Jerusalem, including Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, as well as the restructuring of the Saladin minbar.

"I am confident that you are capable of handling this task and will shoulder all these responsibilities with loyalty and faithfulness," King Hussein said in his message.

The King praised the new chief justice for his integrity and his dedication throughout his years.

Sheikh Tamimi served at one time as Grand Mufti of the Kingdom.

Activists propose judicial record system

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A one-day seminar was held Wednesday at the Royal Cultural Centre to introduce a new judicial record system for individuals.

The event was organised by the National Association for Social Defence (NASD) in cooperation with the Public Security Department (PSD).

According to the NASD, the drafters of the proposed judicial record system, implementation of this system will benefit the judiciary process and individuals in Jordan.

"We do have records to keep track of individuals who are convicted, but they are scattered and unorganised," said Minister of Justice Rafea Al Wazani who addressed the seminar.

The proposed system calls for each citizen to have a judicial record as a document to use when applying for a job, running for elections or applying for membership in professional unions or associations.

If a person is convicted of a crime, the judicial record will include pertinent information concerning the individual and the crime committed.

The main purpose is to safeguard the rights of convicts by stipulating in the record what kind of crime the individual has committed, rather than allow him/her to be labelled in a discriminatory manner, according to the NASD, a non-governmental organisation aimed at educating the public on crime prevention.

NASD officials believe that by presenting such records, individuals stand a better chance of securing a job if the crime was not major.

For convicts who keep repeating the same crime and are considered dangerous to society, the records could accumulate a number of felonies which could deny them the privilege of a general amnesty.

Jordan lacks such a criminal record system, while other countries in the region have already implemented it in their judicial processes.

Minister Wazani stressed the importance of introducing this proposed judicial record system in Jordan, saying "it is better to start late than never start at all."

The judiciary record will be viewed by the Legislative Board, which is expected to recommend it to the Parliament for approval.

Majali urges education directors to encourage students to volunteer

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday urged directors of education to work towards encouraging school students to actively participate in voluntary work which would benefit them as well as their country.

Speaking at a meeting with the directors at the Ministry of Education, Dr. Majali said that harvesting olives is one area where the students can be helpful and reflect true interaction with their community.

The prime minister urged the directors serving in the various governorates to open schools during the summer holidays for various extra curricula activities and encourage the participation of teachers and students.

He said each week teachers should take time out to discuss with their students matters not related to the text book curricula in an effort to help narrow the gap between teacher and student and enhance mutual confidence.

Allowing students to take part in voluntary work and interacting freely with teachers are means of strengthening the fabric of the community, said the prime minister.

He also urged the directors to encourage regular meetings between teachers and school administrators and supervisors to discuss relevant issues.

Dr. Majali said the decentralisation policy adopted by the government would allow departments in the provinces to appoint teachers in their respective regions.

Decentralisation is being adopted at all levels in order to make government employees feel



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday meets with education directors at the Ministry of Education (Petra photo)

that they are partners in shouldering the responsibility of the central government, he added.

At the outset of the meeting, the prime minister listened to the views of the directors on examinations, the ministry's budget

and the latest developments in the Middle East peace process.

Dr. Majali said the ministry ought to re-study the General Secondary School Examinations.

Ministry Secretary General Munther Al Masri was present at the meeting.

Market activities normal despite uncertainties

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Despite the uncertainties of the impact of an Arab-Israeli peace settlement on the Jordanian economy, market activities in the Kingdom remain more or less normal, and fluctuations in certain sectors have not much to do with the peace process, economists and bankers said Wednesday.

Trading at Amman's stock market, the main barometer of investor mentality in Jordan, is on an upward course, reversing a trend which in the past two weeks, "stock prices" were slowly rising, having lost up to 35 per cent over a period of three months.

Real estate agents said very few deals were taking place, but they attributed the decline to a levelling-off of demand created by Jordanian expatriates who returned home in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

Car dealers complained that there were few buyers in the market. Again, the situation was a result of expectations that the Ministry of Finance

was poised to announce a cut in customs duties for vehicles, a move that officials ruled out early this week.

Most other sectors of the economy reported business as usual. Sales of household items such as televisions, refrigerators, videos and washing machines have gone down, but agents and stockists say the decline is normal during the season.

Brokers at the Amman Financial Market (AFM), the Kingdom's bourse, said a credit squeeze on commercial banks resulting from a ceiling imposed by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) on their involvement in the stock market and the emergence of new companies had shifted the focus away from trading on the floor over the past three weeks.

Commercial banks were given a Sept. 30 deadline to bring down their level of involvement in the stock market to a limit set by the CBJ, and most of the banks have already realigned their positions.

"Part of the commercial banks' money has moved away

from the market and hence the trading has been low since mid-August," said a broker.

"Things are picking up this week," he said, pointing out that the daily average trading this week was expected to be around JD 2.5 million. "Prices of some shares which lost heavily in August are also going up."

The daily average trading at the AFM last week was around JD 1.2 million, a plunge from the comparative figure of JD 5 million to JD 6 million since the beginning of the year.

Stock market officials say that there has been a steady flow of capital from the secondary market, where the shares of established companies are traded, to the primary market, where first issues are offered.

The officials point out that primary market dealings are not entered into the books of the AFM until the floatations are complete and thus excluded from the daily trading figures.

"Trading at the AFM is the best barometer that Jordanian businessmen follow," said Dr. Faded Fanek, a noted economic analyst and columnist for the Jordan Times. "The number of transactions has shrunk, but the volume as picked up, indicating that what over the past weeks was only a natural phenomenon."

Wael Jabri of Abdun Real Estate said there was a market decline, and prices of land in and around Amman, among the highest in the Middle East, were going down. The situation was also reflected in rents, he said.

"People are watching the situation and would not like to get into land sale or purchase at a time of uncertainty," said Dr. Fanek. "I expect the situation to return to normal soon."

Mr. Jaabir agreed. "Once things settle down, the market will be back to normal, in terms of not only land prices but also rent."

But Mahmoud Jarrar, another estate agent, disagreed. "The demand created by the massive wave of returnees from the Gulf has levelled off," Mr. Jarrar said. "There are few buyers in the market, and that is why prices have also gone down."

60 firms to display products in Morocco

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Exports Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) Wednesday announced that it is organising a Jordanian industrial fair in Morocco on Sept. 18.

Sixty Jordanian firms will display samples of their products at the Casablanca fair which will last for 10 days, said JEDCO.

It said the fair aims to orient the Moroccan public on the high quality products manufactured in Jordan.

Ministry of Industry and Trade

Secretary General Marwan Awad and JEDCO Director Mohammad Bani Hani, accompanied by representatives of the Jordanian Chambers of Industry and Trade, left Amman Wednesday to prepare for the fair.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian Trade Association (JTA) Wednesday announced that its fair, held in the Polish capital of Warsaw earlier this month, was a success.

JTA Deputy Board Chairman Kamal Kakish said the fair, which was held between Aug. 30 and

Sept. 5, was a first step by the association to encourage trade exchanges between Poland and Jordan.

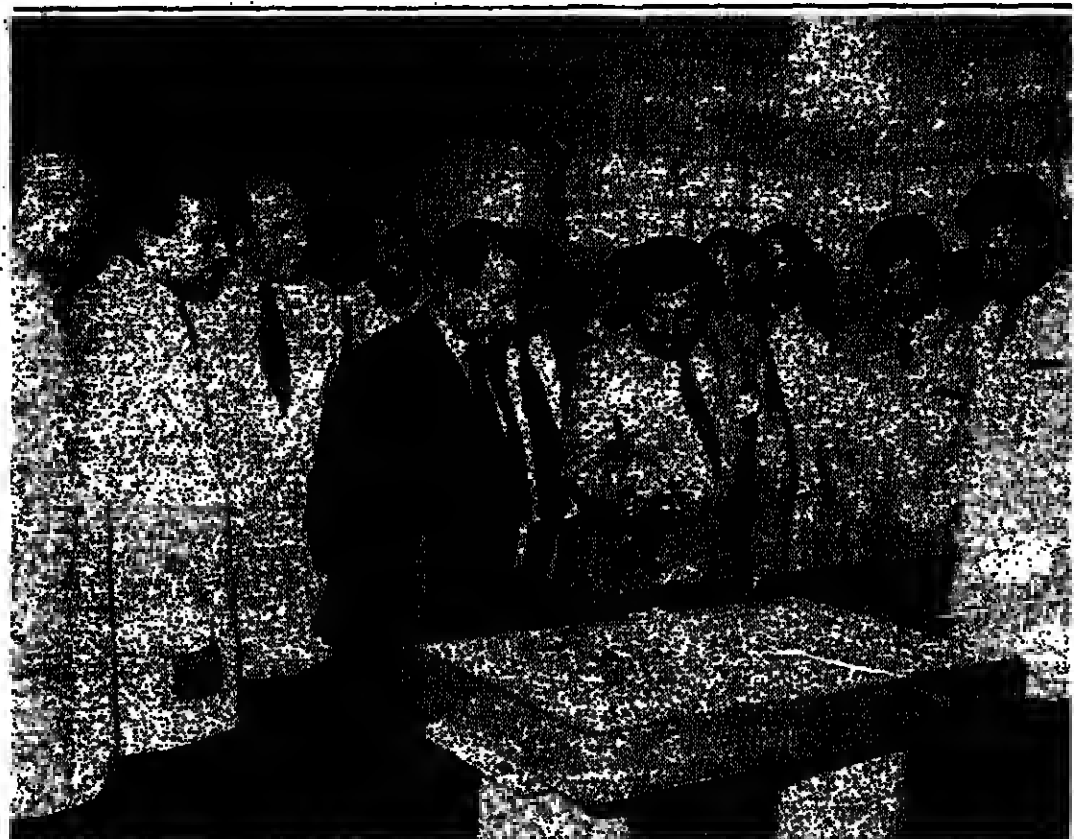
The Polish markets can easily absorb many of the Jordanian products because of their high quality and competitiveness, said Mr. Kakish.

Goods similar to those Jordan displayed at the Warsaw fair are either in short supply in Poland or sold for very high prices, Mr. Kakish said.

He added that many Jordanian business persons conducted talks

with Polish importers aimed at concluding trade deals, many of which were already concluded during the week-long fair.

According to Mr. Kakish, samples of Jordanian paints, cooking ranges, shampoo, soap, chemical detergents, biscuits, car batteries, glue, ready-made garments, foods, syringes, perambulators, umbrellas, plastic pipes, carpet, aluminium ladders, Dead Sea salts, tissue paper, stationery, kitchen utensils, furniture and car filters were displayed.



Minister of Communications and Postal Affairs Tareq Suheimat Wednesday views a model at the Specialty Hospital he inaugurated on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan

Private 'Specialty Hospital' inaugurated

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Minister of Communications and Postal Affairs Tareq Suheimat Wednesday formally inaugurated the Specialty Hospital, a private-owned institution located near the Sports City.

In an address at the inaugural ceremony, Dr. Suheimat paid tribute to the private sector for its continued contribution to the development of the health services

in Jordan.

The government is keen to maintain full cooperation between the private and public sectors in the field of health, said Dr. Suheimat.

The 89-bed hospital, which cost JD 7 million, has been operating for two months, according to hospital Director Khaled Muhalwes.

He told the Jordan Times that the Specialty Hospital is 70 per

cent owned by Jordanian doctors and specialists.

The hospital can be expanded in the future to accommodate 140 beds, he added.

Built on 8,600 square metres of land, the hospital caters to various services, ranging from cardiac surgery to physiotherapy, Dr. Muhalwes said.

Several Cabinet members were present at the opening ceremony.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Nouri Al Rawi at Beladina Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition by artists Mohammad Al Ameri and Ghassan Abu Laban at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Munther Al Ma'ani at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Egyptian artist H. Bakar at

the Balqa' Art Gallery in Fuhes.

- ★ Paintings exhibition by Amor Aouness and Salam Kanaan at the Alfa Art Gallery.
- ★ Permanent exhibition of 58 artists and "Chak" Exhibition at Darat Al Fuman of the Abdul Hamid Shouman Foundation in Jabal Luwaidieh (10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fridays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Eshebla Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre.

FILMS

- ★ Film entitled: "Citizen Kane" at the American Centre at 6:00 p.m.

FRANCO-JORDANIAN COOPERATION: Public Security Department (PSD) Director Major General Abdul Rahim Al Udwan Wednesday met in his office with the French coadjutant to the joint Jordanian-French committee on cooperation in security affairs. Discussion covered security-related issues and the exchange of expertise and training of police personnel. The French team visited several PSD departments and listened to a briefing on their functions



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

جوردان تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

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Agenda plus principles

AN IN-DEPTH reading of the "agenda" that Jordan and Israel have signed in Washington Tuesday, a day after the signing at the White House of the PLO-Israeli agreement, is only in part an agenda. The rest of the Jordanian-Israeli accord is in fact about principles and guidelines that govern the two sides' search for peace. Take for example the first article of the "agenda" where there is a mention of the ultimate objectives of the two states. The stipulation that the attainment of a comprehensive peace between Israel and the Arab parties to the Madrid peace conference is not exactly an agenda item but rather a basic declaration of principles. When it is stated that the search for this peace is to be based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, then that statement should be understood to go beyond the articulation of an agenda topic. The second provision that deals with security makes the character and nature of the Jordanian-Israeli agreement even clearer as more than a mere agenda. Through the pledge by the two parties not to "threaten each other by any use of force," or to refrain from actions that may "adversely affect the security of the other," the two countries are in fact making commitments that are lasting and binding. The same analogy may also apply to the other dimensions of the agreement such as the commitment to the elimination of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

Where the text drifts back to a mere agenda are the references to subjects such as water, refugees, exploration, cooperation in natural resources, water, energy labour, health, tourism etc. In these areas their mention is clearly made as a matter of "to be discussed and agreed upon" within the context of the final peace treaty.

In the final analysis, the "agenda" agreement is not unimportant when it is taken as a whole unit. There is enough spelling of principles and guidelines to make it more far reaching than what is actually made out to be. It took the negotiating teams of the two countries nearly one year to come up with the signed text. To view the document as merely a chronological of issues that will be discussed and negotiated in the future would render the exercise as neither time nor cost-effective.

Still, Jordan is not about to accept a unilateral final peace deal with Israel no matter how advanced the negotiating process might be. Just as the timing of the accord on the Jordanian-Israeli agenda was deliberately delayed till the Palestinian side reached agreement with the Israeli government, there is no question about the decision of Jordan to put off final agreement till the Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese have concluded a final peace pact. In the end, it makes no difference whether the "agenda" agreed is only an agenda or an agenda plus, since the permanent status will not be determined unless and until there is a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace agreement on all fronts.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NEITHER THE PLO-Israeli deal nor the Jordanian-Israeli agenda which was endorsed Tuesday can erase the hatred between the Arabs and the Israelis except with the end of the Zionist lust for Arab blood, said Al Ra'i daily Wednesday. The paper said it is true that the deal marks the start of a long process aiming at peace, but the aspired peace cannot be fulfilled unless Zionism's ambitious plans in the Arab region are terminated. The paper said that the Israeli Jews should recognise the Arabs' humanitarian values and should respect the feelings of the Arab people so that the aspired dream of just peace can be achieved. We had hoped that U.N. Security Council resolutions of 1967 and 1973 would be implemented in full compliance with the international legitimacy and not as result of de facto situation, said the paper. It said that following the collapse of the Soviet empire and the aggression on Iraq, the ground was cleared for the Madrid conference and the planned U.S.-sponsored peace formula. It is a de facto situation and a de facto solution, not an implementation of the U.N. resolution, the paper added. The solution is not based on the principle of self-determination as it comes from a sole superpower on the present world, the paper said. This solution, it said, is unjust because it does not cater to the requirements of the international legitimacy or international principles.

Problems within the lobby and the Jewish community

By Dr. James Zogby

Following is the last of a four-part article in which the writer, president of the Washington-based Arab American Institute, examines the source of the Jewish lobby power and the roots of its current internal political problems.

AIPAC's recent problems (the forced resignations of three of its top officers and a series of embarrassing press exposés) are themselves symptoms of deeper problems plaguing the organization and the Jewish community. The underlying sources of the lobby's problems can be grouped into four categories.

1. Strains between AIPAC and the Jewish community.
2. Ideological strains within the Jewish community.
3. The arrogance of power and money.
4. Long-term problems resulting from the changing political climate in the U.S.

1. The Jewish community and AIPAC

More than an independent organization, AIPAC was originally designed to be a lobby for Israel that could provide guidance and information to the other Jewish organizations in the U.S. It was to be a coordinating centre. On its expanded Executive Board sit the heads of the major Jewish organizations — an expression of this intended relationship. This is how it was supposed to be.

Increasingly, however, as AIPAC grew, it began to see itself as a separate entity — in fact as THE "voice of the Jewish community in Washington." And it is this self-characterisation that has caused some tension within the Jewish community.

Temper flared, for example, in the 1980's when the Reagan administration held a meeting with AIPAC's leaders at the White House. The Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations immediately protested to the administration that they, and not AIPAC, represented the American Jewish community.

Once again in 1988, leaders of the U.S.'s three most important Jewish organizations (the American Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith) blasted AIPAC as being out of step with "the consensus of the organized Jewish community" on key Middle East issues.

What the three mainstream Jewish groups were protesting was AIPAC's heavy-handed lobbying on issues such as opposition to a Kuwaiti arms sale, efforts to shut down the PLO's U.N. office, and a preemptive effort to deny Yasser Arafat a visa to speak at the U.N. The groups were concerned that AIPAC acted in every instance without consultation and used tactics they found objectionable.

In a revealing essay written in the mid-1980s and published by the American Jewish Committee, a prominent Jewish sociologist criticised the lobby, charging that the lobby had created the dangerous perception that the Jewish community was a single issue (i.e., pro-Israel) constituency. This, the paper argued, and the lobby's heavy-handed use of money in politics could, in the long run, reduce Jewish political influence and the support given by other groups to Jewish causes. So it is that today, as AIPAC is facing internal political problems, there are not many tears being shed within the leadership of the other mainstream Jewish political organizations. When outsiders attack the group, American Jews will support it (as Mr. Bush discovered in 1991). But when AIPAC faces its internal Jewish critics, American Jewish organizations are not willing to provide the same type of support.

2. The arrogance of big money

There is also another dimension to this problem that warrants attention. As AIPAC developed political action committees (PACs) and grew dramatically in size during the 1980s, its need for money and major contributors also grew. From a \$1 million annual budget in mid-1970's to a \$7 million budget (plus accumulated PAC contributions of \$5 million) in 1988, to a budget of almost \$15 million (plus \$5 million in PAC contributions) in 1992 — this growth has also adversely affected the lobby.

As one former AIPAC staff member, who is now a political columnist, recently wrote, with a multi-million dollar budget AIPAC is no longer satisfied with \$25 memberships and \$100 donations. And given its enormous need for funds, it is not enough for the group to be led by a group of savvy staff and a board of seasoned political operators. Now AIPAC must rely on the \$50,000 and \$100,000 donors.

In order to lure them into the organization, these major contributors have been placed on the AIPAC board. The former AIPAC staff member says that this big money group (including people like the recently resigned President David Steiner and Regional Vice President Harvey Friedman) are a source of AIPAC's problems. They have "big egos" and lack political judgement, he says, and they are arrogant and heavy-handed in their dealings with politicians and other Jewish organizations.

One prominent Jewish newspaper editorialised last month that the way for AIPAC to solve its problems would be for the leaders of major Jewish organizations who still sit on the expanded board of the lobby to assert themselves and retake control of the organization. If that were to happen, however, most observers agree that there would be an intense power struggle between the established Jewish community leadership and the "big money" leadership — and both would be hurt.

While this struggle between "egos" and different political philosophies is a characteristic of all ethnic politics and certainly has existed in the past within the Jewish community, the fact that the struggle is now so public is new.

The ideological strain within the Jewish community

What is significant is not only that the internal debate is public, but also that it is so strident. One long-time observer of American Jewish politics said:

"In the past there was a difference between the way American Jews and Israelis debated their differences. Israeli political culture is brutal, American Jews have been more gentle by comparison. Now, the civility which characterises the internal American Jewish debate is gone — and that will have an impact on the community."

The problem, however, is not only that of a difference between

"In the past there was a difference between the way American Jews and Israelis debated their differences. Israeli political culture is brutal, American Jews have been more gentle by comparison. Now, the civility which characterises the internal American Jewish debate is gone — and that will have an impact on the community."

the style of the big money egos and the more liberal political operators. It is also an ideological split within the Jewish community and, to some extent, between many of the so-called leaders of the Jewish community and the mass base of American Jews.

An Israeli Knesset member, Dedi Zucker, recently noted that after 15 years of trips to Israel where American Jewish leaders were made to feel like "big shots," and after repeated visits by Likud officials to the U.S., American Jewish leaders have become "brainwashed." An American Jewish official agreed, saying:

"American Jews were used to four consensus issues: no PLO, no yielding on the Golan, Jerusalem is ours, and no return to the pre-67 borders."

These were the issues for which AIPAC and most other Jewish organizations lobbied Congress for 15 years. Now they are faced with a new government in Israel that is at least willing to make some concessions — and some of those same Jewish leaders are finding it difficult to accept the change.

This is one source of the tensions that exist between AIPAC and the Labour government in Israel. AIPAC grew comfortable with Likud — it could easily mobilise its members to support Israel's stand against a threat. It is more difficult to support peace with Arabs — especially after being brainwashed by Likud to see peace with the Arabs as either impossible or undesirable.

It was this tension that caused Mr. Rabin to rebuke the lobby. He became wary, as one Jewish observer put it, of "the diaspora dictating policy to the Zionist state — especially when the diaspora was supporting the opposition (Likud) and making embarrassing losses for Israel (the loan guarantees)."

After the upheavals of the past year, AIPAC has a new president: Steve Grossman. In Mr. Grossman, Labour has an AIPAC president they like and they are working overtime to support him.

account for the firing of Harvey Friedman. And there are many other Harvey Friedmans still in the lobby's governing body. A Jewish analyst suggested that Mr. Grossman may only be a liberal Democratic figurehead elected by the board to help the group "save face." A true test of Mr. Grossman's ability to lead will come in the near future as the lobby looks to hire a new executive director.

There is still another dimension to this problem that warrants investigation, which is the fact that the leadership of AIPAC and many other American Jewish organizations are themselves, for the most part, out of touch with the political views held by most American Jews.

A survey done in 1989 of American Jewish public opinion showed that 76 per cent agreed that "Israel should make territorial compromises in the West Bank and Gaza in return for credible peace guarantees." 67 per cent agreed that "Arab sovereignty in the occupied territories was desirable." Yet, these were most certainly not the positions lobbied for by AIPAC, other Jewish organizations, or their leaders.

This gap between the opinions of the constituency and the leaders has given birth to a new Jewish organization, Americans for Peace Now (APN) — which is today one of the fastest growing groups in the American Jewish community. APN supported George Bush's position on the loan guarantees to Israel, supports "land for peace" as the way to a Middle East peace and as a group can vote that many more of its members secured positions in the Clinton administration than did AIPAC-supported candidates.

4. Long-term problems

It appears that many of AIPAC's board members would prefer to see Likud return to power. They are uncomfortable with the prospects for peace — they don't trust peace, they don't understand peace and they don't

"When a star dies, it takes the earth a very long time to find out about it."

Since some of AIPAC's power is a result of a blind fear felt by many members of Congress, change will not come about simply because the lobby is internally divided or weakened. The continued response of many elected officials toward AIPAC's initiatives is automatic and without concern for the merits or implications of their votes. If the lobby wants something, elected officials still feel that the path of least resistance is to give it what it wants.

AIPAC may be down, but it is not out. Despite internal problems, it retains the power of money and access, so its influence will continue to be felt in Washington. But its long-term prospects are dependent upon the outcome of several "ifs." AIPAC needs time to regroup.

The first task facing AIPAC today is the hiring of a new executive director. This will not be a simple task, since the decision threatens the internal cohesion of the lobby.

Tom Dine, the recently "fired" executive director of the lobby had been with the organization for a decade. He oversaw the growth of the group from a medium-sized lobby to the strong but internally-divided power it is today. Dine was one of the few people in Washington with instant access to virtually everyone. He had worked in all three branches of the government; and though a Democrat, he was also respected and feared by Republicans.

The current acting director, Howard Kohr, is not a person of Mr. Dine's stature. Mr. Kohr is a Republican and is not feared by Democrats. He is seen as a Likudnik — and is not viewed favourably by Labourites. But he is favoured by the "big money" members of AIPAC's board. If they get their way and the liberal president, Steve Grossman, is forced to keep Mr. Kohr, the decision may open up the internal debate between the lobby and the more liberal members of the Jewish community.

Current tensions are already taking their toll on AIPAC. Fundraising is down by \$2 million and several staff members have been let go. While the group's budget will still be quite high (estimates are that it will be about \$12 million) — it may yet suffer an additional decline in support.

The lobby will survive. It will also continue to face internal conflicts and will not regain the undisputed power it wielded during the Reagan years. How much of that power it does regain is dependent upon several factors, the "ifs" mentioned above.

If peace is not achieved, and if REAL campaign finance reform is not passed — AIPAC will find the time it needs to regroup and regain some of its former strength.

If Likud succeeds in ousting Labour in Israel, or if Rabin continues his "iron fist" policies in the occupied territories and creates deeper tensions in the Middle East, AND IF THERE IS NO EFFECTIVE U.S. CHALLENGE to a hard-line Israel, once again AIPAC will find the time it needs to regain its strength. AIPAC can only flourish in a political climate in which there is either no peace, or no tension between Israeli policy and the U.S. administration and Congress.

At this point, the lobby could not possibly resist a strong challenge from the President, or a legislative initiative from a strong congressional or Senate Committee Chair. But, since prospects for such a challenge seem slight, the lobby will most probably not have to face such an immediate confrontation.

AIPAC is still strong, but the group is in a fragile state. While the fallout from its internal disarray has not yet been reflected in political decisions taken by Congress or the administration, any future blowups or an extreme challenge could weaken its power substantially.

It is ironic that, at this point, a real push toward a comprehensive Middle East peace, a genuine challenge of Israeli policies by the administration, a strong push in Congress to change U.S. foreign aid programmes to provide support for new democracies around the world, or an honest move toward genuine campaign finance reform — any of these challenges would not only enhance the prospects for a real democratic political debate in the U.S. and result in a more balanced U.S. Middle East policy that would promote peace and U.S. interests, but would also weaken the hold that the destructive lobby has on politics in Washington.

Arab Americans could play a more effective role as catalysts to help bring about this needed change.

Golan man wants land back, better by war

By Assem Abdul Mohsen
Reuters

'AIN WAWYAT, Syrian Golan Heights — Every morning, Muatib Touhan drives his herd of cows and sheep close to the ceasefire line that divides the Syrian — from the Israeli-held parts of the Golan Heights.

From there he can look at his land at Talgiyat, about one kilometre away on the Israeli held side of the line. "For me land is life. It is honour. How would you feel when you see your honour trampled under foot everyday before your own eyes and you are unable to do anything?" he asked.

For some 20 years, it has been a kind of ritual for Mr. Touhan to look at the fruit and olive trees he used to own on the part of the Golan still held by Israel, and to dream of the day when it would be regained by war.

The 60-year-old farmer spends hours every morning gazing at his 120-dunum plot across the barbed wire fences and mine-fields that mark the ceasefire line drawn in 1974, when Syrian and Israeli forces were disengaged after the 1973 war.

'Ain Wawayat is a small hamlet, about 70 kilometres to the southwest of Damascus and close to the Golan's main city of Qunayra, which was devastated by the Israelis.

The hamlet consisted of some 20 homes, all destroyed with the exception of that belonging to Mr. Touhan, who told Reuters Television he had never lost the hope that the land which he inherited from his father would one day return to him.

But he still wants to avenge what he described as "years of suffering and bitterness" since Israel captured the whole of the Golan plateau in the 1967 Middle East war.

"The house I built when I married my first wife, the place where my first children were born, was destroyed by the Israelis. Its image is still printed in my mind. I can describe it to you now," Mr. Touhan said.

Under a disengagement agreement concluded in 1974, Israel

returned 660 square kilometres of the Golan to Syria. It still holds 1,200 square kilometres, including Talgiyat where Mr. Touhan's land lies. Syrian officials in Qunayra said.

Syria and Israel have been engaged in peace talks over the past 22 months centred on Israel withdrawing from the part of the Golan it still occupies in return for peace with Syria.

State-run Damascus Radio said Saturday Israel was offering "partial and conditional withdrawal" from occupied Arab lands, and restated that Syria would not give up its claim to a single inch of its own territory.

Mr. Touhan has married four times, the last two years ago. He is a father of 12 girls and eight boys. The youngest child, from his most recent wife, is one-year-old Radwan.

Mr. Touhan was initially moved from the Golan, along with other people, when it was seized by the Israelis, but has come back.

He now grazes his herd in a plot of land given to him by the Syrian government. He and his big family are squeezed into a three-room house without electricity or running water.

Mr. Touhan used to cultivate his 120 dunums with fruit groves, olives and vegetables.

He cannot tell from the distance whether the groves he sees every day were the ones he planted and tended until they grew. But he still hopes he will be able to rebuild a new home and he and his children will cultivate their land again.

"I could not bear being away from my land. Land is life to me. It is dearer to me than my children. I swear by God I am sincere in saying this."

"I do not mind if all my children are killed in the young Radwan are killed in a battle to regain it," Mr. Touhan said.

He is happy about the prospect that the land will return peacefully if the peace talks succeed.

"It is true we like peace. But if you want me to tell you the truth, I would prefer that it is regained by blood to avenge our sufferings... I swear that."

LETTERS

May the world be forgiven

To the Editor:

A SOLILOQUY in memory of the Muslim Bosnians dead, dying and on death row:

While the United Nations is at its best when upholding double standards, and at its worst when dealing with human rights; While recognising the fact that Serbia is not Iraq and Bosnia is not Kuwait, the U.S. is found gumming political distillates; While the Europeans are trying to prove to the world that they are not fake but genuine crocodile tears; While the Serbs are breathlessly cleansing out their erstwhile neighbours, the Muslims of Bosnia à la Dachau and Buchenwald; While the Russians have found it in their own interest to play possum, it did not take long for the Muslims of the ex-Soviet republics to get the message; While the Muslims of the world are opiating themselves with the incantation — "Allahu Akbar"; While the rest of the world are whiling away the time counting their hissings, albeit, dealing with problems of their own; ...The Bosnian Muslims are losing count of their dead. May the Heavens be their final abode. And may shame be ours to sustain us and succor our needs from future upheavals. Ameco.

Ludwig W. Tamari,
Potomac Maryland,
U.S.A.

What better solution?

To the Editor:

I refer to the article by Lamis Andoni "Supporters and opponents of accord vie to win Palestinian minds" (Jordan Times, Sept. 13, 1993) and would like to express my dissatisfaction with Ms. Andoni's perspective.

She obviously opposes the accord and, despite the title of the article, there is no indication of her having spoken to anyone who supports the accord. Ms. Andoni's leftist revolutionary credentials are well known to those who follow such matters. It is unfortunate that the Jordan Times has provided a platform for her to express these opinions, which obviously represent the ideas of no one but herself.

She has conveniently expressed her own negative opinions regarding the accord by disguising them as those of anonymous "political analysts" or "officials." This tactic is used frequently by western journalists and it may be a sign of our relative advancement that our own home-grown journalists are starting to utilise it, albeit in a heavy handed way.

I must make it clear to Ms. Andoni and like-minded opponents of the accord that they have not offered us a better solution than to continue with the bloodshed and perpetuate the experience of national dislocation that the Palestinians have suffered for so many years. An agreement will be signed which will finally incorporate the Palestinians as a legitimate entity within the international community and neither she nor her "political analysts" can wreck it.

The Arab community as a whole will now be able to concentrate on the really meaningful issues in this world, like economic advancement and improved living standards for the Arab people through the development of industry, services and trade. The nations of the Pacific basin have concentrated on these things since the end of World War II and they have managed to gain real power in this world. The Arabs have concentrated on political intrigue and revolutionary rhetoric and they have no power.

This should be clear to people like Lamis Andoni, who always regurgitate inflammatory words but never manage to provide a solution to anything.

Jamal Jabari,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

The late Abdul Rahim Omar's views on the goals of the literary movement in Jordan Jordan needs a new outlook on the importance of 'culture and the cultured'

In its first edition, the weekender carried this interview with Jordanian-Palestinian writer Abdul Rahim Omar, who passed away at 64 earlier this week. The interview, which appeared on March 29, 1990, is reprinted in his memory.

An overwhelming oak desk takes up much of the room. The man transmits an aura of wisdom carried with a non-intimidating flair for criticism. The words flow with strength but are mellowed with a kind smile, a knowing glance and a relaxed posture. The atmosphere is hushed with cramped used books, perhaps read by the writer while listening to the rhythms of classical music, another pastime treasured by the man who now holds the position of president of the Jordan Writers Association. His passage to the Jordan Times WEEKENDER was simple but it gave hope to the orchestra of this experiment. "Perhaps through you we will be taking the first step towards our goal," Abdul Rahim Omar said.

By Norman Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

LITERATURE is not only interwoven words that form a beautiful picture, it is a whole movement that depicts a culture and its people. For Jordanian writers and poets, the message has gone out and touched most Arab countries, but it has not yet gained the respect and recognition it deserves locally.

In a recent survey conducted by Jordan Television with university students, results indicated that most university students could not name one Jordanian poet. To the president of the Jordanian Writers Association (JWA), Abdul Rahim Omar, these results indicate that "there are dangerous loopholes in our educational and information systems."

In an interview with Jordan Times WEEKENDER,

Omar, who is also a renowned Jordanian poet and daily columnist at Al Rai newspaper, discussed the hurdles facing the development of the Jordanian literary movement as well as the needed measures, in his opinion, to build bridges between the writer or poet and the people.

While Omar believes that the Jordanian literary movement is active and "very much around" in the Arab and international arenas he concedes that "the image of our movement is a lot brighter outside."

The question that immediately comes to mind is why? While Jordanians claim one of the highest percentages of literacy in the Arab World, the ability to read and write does not seem to develop into the deeper uses of these abilities, constructive reading and cultural aware-



Abdul Rahim Omar (64)

ness.

"Education is not receiving the priority it receives in other Arab countries," Omar maintains, pointing a finger at the Ministries of Culture and Information as the main culprits in what he describes as their "lack of proper concern" for developing cultural education.

"Ninety per cent of those working at the Ministry of Culture do not come from the literary circles," Omar cited as an example of non-professionalism in dealing with the concept of literary development in the Kingdom.

He points out that specialised literary writing is non-

existent in Jordan because this type of journalism "is usually supported by the official body concerned. This is not done here."

These facts, to Omar, are obviously in contradiction with the high level of unemployment among "the literate" in Jordan.

For while the "professionals are going to waste," the not-so-professionals are running the show. "They do not want to even make use of the talents and abilities that are going to waste. This is difficult to understand, especially that these establishments (cultural and media channels) are criticised because they lack professionals."

The Ministry of Information and its various "official" channels did not escape the criticism of Omar who also believes that the media is not even remotely connected to literary development.

"The literary sections in the different media are very weak and unable to take a much needed initiative to develop literary education," Omar maintains, to him, the whole literary education process is just like any other developing business which requires undivided attention, patience and dedication "as it produces even more important results to the whole nation."

"If agricultural work aims at producing excellent crops and industrial work aims at creating new industries, then the aim of literary work is to create good humans."

"No-one can doubt the priority that should be given to this aim over others," he stresses.

Although critical, Omar is full of optimism over the future of the literary movement in Jordan and within the realm of his dissatisfaction lies several rays of hope for development, all sparked by democracy.

"It was obvious that the circle most affected by the absence of democracy was the literary circle. We were target for the most uncivilised measures. Perhaps the closing down of the Jordan Writers Association (JWA) is the best example of these measures," said Omar, who was member of the Executive Committee of the JWA when it was forced closed by a defence law decision in July 1987.

He did not want to get into the details of what he described as "oppressive measures against the literary figures," satisfying himself by saying: "I do not want to mention the tens of writers and poets who had their passports confiscated and were expelled from their jobs becoming excellent candidates for poverty."

Omar believes that the onset of democratisation in the Kingdom adds hope to the development of Jordanian literature but he expresses hope that dealing with the cultural and literary movements will take a turn to the better.

What he believes is needed now is a completely new outlook on the importance of "culture and the cultured," built on the conviction that cultural work is important for the citizen "just as important to him or her as health."

To Omar, the literary and cultural movement will create a human with national commitment to the morals and traditions of the society "able to function in a developing society. Not hindered by backwardness."

For him, the movement will highlight the political message of the nation through providing the citizen with the necessary education variety needed to "enlighten the world around him and enable him to communicate with that world."

The word "democracy" has yet to expand in the minds of the people as well as the officials to include the cultural and social right to know and to apply that knowledge, Omar maintains. "But the mission is difficult, the road is long, and the goal is sacred," he says.

Diary

► Tailor with far-sight ◄



If you can't beat them, Join them

DUES UNDUELY PAID: It seems that some dirty linen is being washed in public, at least when it comes to tourism and affiliates. In its latest monthly newsletter, the Jordan Tourism Board (JTB) told its members that there was good news: It had received \$79,000 in contributions from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Jordan Express Tourist Transport (JETT) bus company. The bad news was that the money was spent on the support of fam (familiarisation) trips for travel writers and television crews. "The long awaited payments were made to the Petra Forum, Jordan International and Holiday International hotels," the newsletter said. So far so good. But the catch came when at least one member of the board "revealed" that hotels do not charge anything for "fam" trips. William Sawalha, manager of Alcazar Hotel in Aqaba, in a letter he sent to the Jordan Times last week, accused the board of "misallocating" the contributions, arguing that fam trips are "support services which other hotels provide to travel agents free of charge." A board member countered that JTB (which includes in its membership representatives from the Ministry of Tourism, Royal Jordanian, JETT, the Travel Agents Society and hotels) organises fam trips for travel writers, television crews and photojournalists who in turn promote Jordan through their media, adding that the board pays for the visitors' food and transportation and the hotels pay for their accommodation. There is indeed more than meets the eye in the affair, and the question is: How will the donors look at the squabbling and possibilities of scams with their funds?

ROYALTY AT A PARTY: Sharif Nashed Saaddin Al Zeid, a distant member of the Royal Family, has set a precedent by joining a political party, the Islamic Democratic Leadership (Dua). In a statement he sent to the press early this week, he said: "... following years of deep intellectual dialogue with an intellectual elite ... and as an Arab Hashemite totally dedicated to the message of Prophet Mohammad, I found in Dua the only party able to crystallise the Hashemite thought into a concrete philosophical structure that would unleash its dormant powers..." Dua is an Islamic party that also includes Christians. How constitutional is Sharif Nashed's membership in Dua? Or for that matter any member of the Royal Family joining any political party? Some explanations say that Sharif Nashed is not directly related to the Royal Family, and thus his political behaviour has no constitutional bearing on any one. Others say that any member, distant or close, joining a political party is indeed taboo.

GETTING ONLY OLDER, NOT WISER: After serving 13 months as director of the Information and Public Relations Office at the Royal Court, Mohammad Daoudieh resigned his post last month ahead of the Nov. 8 elections in which he intends to stake a claim to a seat in the domed Parliament house. In his letter of resignation, Mr. Daoudieh, born in Tafleeh but brought up in the Ruweished area (near the border with Iraq), thanked His Majesty King Hussein for the "care and compassion," which he, "an orphan," never dreamed of receiving. A week after his resignation, however, the Council of Ministers approved a licence for a newspaper which will have a heavy involvement of officials from the Royal Court, including its chief Khaled Al Karaki himself, and edited by Mr. Daoudieh. The paper, to be named Al Nahdah, was immediately labelled as the would-be mouthpiece of the regime. But, those who believed that it was were in for a surprise. In the first week after his departure from the Royal Palace, Mr. Daoudieh wrote two scathing pieces in his daily forum (which he has reclaimed) in Al Dustour newspaper against the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy agreement and, among other things, accused the PLO of "deceiving" Jordan as well as the people it represents. Did Daoudieh have his own agenda? Or after over a year of working at the Royal Court did he not acquire an understanding of the regime's line of thinking? The other, more important question, was how his words would go down in Tafleeh, will more Tafleeh vote for him, now that he has lashed out at the PLO?

Suhair Obeidat

BOOK REVIEWS

The book is written in such a way that the target reader could be the housewife, the student, the university professor, and decision makers. Using vivid and effective language, the writer shows a country and people constantly assailed by troubles since the beginning of history.

Despite the trauma and the hardships expressed, the author concludes his work with the words "hope remains". Is hope symbolised in the ongoing peace process? In the Palestinians?

Hope, the writer says, is in the land itself which "has given birth to prophets, sooth-sayers and a peaceful people."

Hind-Lara Mango

Hope is in the land itself

The Palestinians
People Of The Olive Tree

By Dr. Kamel S. Abu Jaber
Published by the Jordan Institute For Middle East Studies
Amman-Jordan (1993)

WHC and what are the Palestinians? These are two of the questions Professor Kamel Abu Jaber attempts to answer in his concise book The Palestinians-People Of The Olive Tree.

He does not attempt to catalogue history or trace the Palestinian problem. Facts are forthcoming from the mouths of the Palestinian news vendor, Mahmoud, from Sami who lives in the United States, or from Ali, a well-o-do Palestinian who has "made it big" in Australia.

In his hundred page dialogue, Dr. Abu Jaber attempts to portray a real-life image of a Palestinian identity with a capacity for feeling and a deep yearning for peace. In doing so he has taken a cross section of Palestinians coming from all walks of life: From the common Mahmoud to the highly educated Jamal, to the story of Unni Jamai and her struggle to support her family.

Women are illustrated through the dialogues of their son and husbands, but their role is not undermined in the least. They are shown as steadfast beings capable of facing dire hardships and surviving them.

The form these self-portraits take is that of question and answer. The interviewer, being the author, asks several questions of each character and the forthcoming narratives form the core of the book.

After fifteen years of interviewing, Dr. Abu Jaber has conveyed his message: The Palestinians are scattered throughout the world, yet they retain the sacred image of their Palestine.

The theme of misery, abuse and intolerance is common to each story. Misery is used like a spice, reviving the human element in the narratives.

The author writes: "We have become attuned to misery," and with this in mind, he attempts to humanise it through the tragedies that befell not statistics but real life families, children, mothers, fathers, sons and daughters.

Local saints and the automation of Algeria

The Ogre's Embrace
By Rachid Mimouni
Quartet, £13.95

A SOLITARY postal worker demonstrates against the state by waving a "Long live the President!" banner. He is accused of being a master spy and sentenced to death. A plan to modernise the railways cuts off a sleepy village from the main line. The village returns to tradition and forgets the rest of the world. A park attendant fights to save his park and turns it into a heaven for young lovers; but then lets it rot again when a prize statue is defaced. Welcome to Rachid Mimouni's Algeria.

The seven stories in The Ogre's Embrace focus on the working lives of ordinary Algerians. We are given a privileged glimpse into the daily affairs of station managers, farm labourers, teachers, postmen and political activists. There is little action in the stories — but that is

not the point. The interest lies in the interplay of the character and the intransigent state bureaucracy they encounter at every turn. Mimouni captures the bewilderment of his characters with a mixture of light irony and pathos and an innocent, playful humour.

In Computers And Me, for example, a nameless school teacher narrates how automation systematically alienates him from his community, friends and even his children. Conversation dries up when the village tabacconist begins to use a calculator, and our hero is forced to change shops. Computerisation at the state motor factory means that the nonexistence of a spare part can be certified beyond doubt and the car has to be abandoned. When the newly automated village bank makes a mistake and transfers a small fortune into the narrator's account he is forced to flee. When he squanders all his hard currency on electronic games, the narrator "had to change eldest son".

Mimouni's main concern is to show that modernisation has not changed Algeria. It has simply replaced one set of agonies with another. In The Poule, a farm hand gives up his traditional occupation every summer for the modern vocation of being a lifeguard at the beach. The drudgery of labour at the farm is replaced by bureaucratic hurdles and opposition at the seashore. Modernity arrives; the daily grind of life continues.

Not all of Algeria's ills can be laid at the door of the state, however. There are other forces at work here, and Mimouni lovingly brings them to the fore. In a country where, according to legend, gods speak to men, religious tradition yields awesome power. In A Story Of Time, the villagers opt for saving the tomb of a local saint and reject the new railway track. Consequently, the village is abandoned by the state and villagers return to a 19th-century existence. In Mimouni's world, traditionalists see everything foreign as detestable and evil. Unmarried men — and they are the protagonists of most of these stories — are seen as abnormal at best and amoral at worst. But those who stand for modernity are not much better. Modern life, Mimouni appears to be saying, is a fantasy that has corrupted those who label themselves as progressive and liberal.

The stories in The Ogre's Embrace may be simple, but they carry a poignant message: As a nation, Algeria harbours a tendency towards self-destruction. Perhaps Mimouni overstates his case, even throwing in a few Orientalist clichés for effect. Most of his natives are lazy, all those in authority are far from honest, and everyone seems to be living in "two-room flat with 14 children". But The Ogre's Embrace leaves the reader disturbed and, perhaps, as bewildered as some of its characters — The Independent.

Ziauddin Sardar

The next step

By Jean-Claude Elias

Since personal computers (PC) were introduced in the early eighties the obvious trend in the Information Technology (IT) industry has been to always propose more powerful, faster, cheaper machines to the user. It has often been said in this very column that a major improvement is introduced to PCs or related equipment (printers, disks, etc...) an average of two times a year.

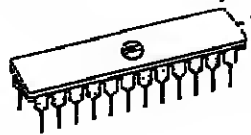
While the general tendency has not changed, recently there seems to be a relative slow down in the users' demand for purchasing equipment or hardware. In six short years, the top-of-the-line PC standard shifted from the 286 processor to the 486-DX2, cruising through the 386-SX, 386-DX, 486-SX, and 486-DX sub-models.

Similarly, most software packages (programmes) have been fine tuned by their developers. The current MS-Windows 3.1 version for instance is far superior in terms of reliability, functionality and user-friendliness to the early one: back in 1986. All the key programmes whether word processors, spreadsheets or databases also seem to have been "polished" and one can imagine how difficult it is now for their designers to improve on them.

While there is little doubt that the IT will continue to propose new equipment and improved software, if for marketing reasons only, most private users feel the need to take a "break from buying" and find a way to get the most and the best out of the PC systems they own.

For someone who has been closely following the fashion and therefore replacing his PC and programmes every six months, there has hardly been time enough to study in-depth what he had in his hands. By the time he had acquired some superficial knowledge of his system, it was time to change for a new one. Consequently, with such a pattern, and unless being a full-time computer professional, one could never really explore and become familiar with

chip talk



all the features and possibilities of one's system. Even if previous knowledge could still be used and one didn't have to start again from scratch, a lot of time and effort was generally lost in the process.

Most users now realise the importance of training. Not just shallow, amateur, occasional training but serious, thorough, professional and continuous. It is not surprising to see a growing number of recently established companies in Jordan that specialise in such service. The trend is worldwide and certainly not limited to the Kingdom.

A few years ago, PC operators could live without training or would do with the self-teaching facilities that are built-in, reputable software packages. It is not the case anymore. Users cannot expect to become proficient without formal, organised, systematic computer courses, given by specialists.

Several leading PCs manufacturers are going through a negative phase, sustaining heavy losses. The long awaited 586 processor — or Pentium as it is officially called — has been designed, tested and released but doesn't seem to be easily available, commercially speaking. The best one can do in times like these is to find ways, through courses or personal practice, to better know the software and the equipment one already has.

Nobody loves you like I do

By E. Yaghi

All true trophies of the ages are from mother-love imperaled;
For the hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rules the world.

By William Ross Wallace

"Are you jealous because your son loves me?" Grendella questioned her mother-in-law as they both sat in the kitchen drinking soda on a hot summer day.

"You are quite mistaken if you believe such a thing answered Beowulf's mother. "It would please me more than you could ever know if you love my son more than I do."

Beowulf's mother knew that any defence of herself would certainly be accepted suspiciously by her son's wife. It had been one long tedious, tiring and troublesome month since her son left his wife and two small children with his parents while he travelled back to the country where he had obtained his Master's Degree in order to pack up all his belongings to take that final step and assume the position of a job offer here in Jordan. Every day Beowulf's mother had to try to cope with his two small children and their mother and every morning at breakfast his wife would gurgel and coo over her husband's photo and say to her children: "See daddy's picture! Do you love him? Give daddy a big kiss!" And every day she had to also listen to the sticky expressions of her saying: "Oh, I miss Beowulf so much! Oh, I love him so much. Only so many more days until he comes."

Thus, the children would slobber over their father's wrinkled frayed picture while Beowulf's mother who worked under the alias of "Grandma" watched as a queasy feeling inched its way up her throat.

No, she didn't believe in being jealous of her son's wife even though her son phoned nearly every day and impatiently asked to speak to his beloved who commenced to report a list of events of the past twenty-four hours since they had last spoken together. It was as if Grendella imagined herself to be some sort of Cinderella, not the troll-wife that she was. Most often she left the dishes after meals for her mother-in-law to wash and too, the responsibility for cooking mainly fell on Grandma's shoulders. Not to mention the cleaning of black fingerprints from off the walls and scrubbing spots off the carpets that her son's children made, or how she became the convenient built-in babysitter as if she herself had not raised her own children but had been born and bred to care without a moment's notice, her howling grandchildren with the assumption that she had nothing else to do with her life.

However being a grandmother takes some getting used to and isn't something that automatically and instantly infiltrates a granny's being. Beowulf's mother found the first half hour of every day to be the most difficult. She had grown too used to those days of quiet lazy mornings when her own children rushed off to school leaving her in the solitude of heavenly peace and screams, cryless hours.

But one day after such a question of, "do you get jealous because your son loves me?" business, Beowulf's mother finally replied with a bit of rage brewing under her graying scalp: "You know something? Marriage is an institution of daily sacrifice. It is a give and take partnership where each

spouse tries to contribute some of his or her self for the sake of the children and the benefit of the entire family. Love isn't just saying, 'I love you.' Love isn't selfish either. You, Grendella, want to go to a private university and spend JD 3,000 a year on tuition. How much is your husband going to make at his new job?"

Grendella looked surprised at the sudden unexpected outburst of Beowulf's mother. "I don't know," she replied. "Naturally, you didn't give finances a second thought, but I will tell you how much. He will be making JD 4,000 a year and you will spend 3,000 on yourself for tuition alone. That will leave JD 1,000 for the pair of you to live on. From this amount you will have to pay a babysitter for your children, food, rent, transportation and so on. I believe that what you plan to do is pure selfishness not love, in fact, such an endeavour seems more like insanity than practicality."

"Even if your husband, who just happened to be my son first, foolishly allows you to attend such a university to get your education, you should refuse! What would happen if you stayed home for a year or two until your husband is settled in his job and has a little money saved up? It wouldn't be the end of the world, and your little children need you more than anything else. How do you plan to put them in some nursery school or throw them on some neglectful sitter who doesn't care if they eat or not? You Grendella, are sacrificing your children and your husband for your own selfish interests. I am not against your getting an education, but your children and your husband should come first. The mother is like a school for her young. Are you planning to send Beowulf to his grave before he reaches the age of thirty? If you really love him as much as you say you do, then you will sacrifice something of yourself so that the future of all of you will be stabilised."

"But I do love him!" her daughter-in-law protested.

"If you really love him as much as you claim, you will settle down, make a home for him, take care of his children and make ends meet until your fortune takes a turn. If I had a dinar, I would give all of it to my son if he needed it, but if my son had a dinar, you would spend it on yourself and take another dinar in debt to get what you want. I do not call this love, I call this using and taking advantage of the goodness of the one who loves you. Beware, one day this love if constantly abused and misused, might turn to hate and then you won't be the queen that you fancy yourself to be! What's more, one thing I do hate to hear is that everybody in Jordan is ignorant and why a good life you had in the country you used to live in. Every country has its advantages and disadvantages, but his is your home, this is the country where you were born and raised. If you do feel the people are ignorant, then work to educate them. The best place to start is with your own children for they are the potential leaders of tomorrow. And never use your education to become a snob over others. Once you get a degree, it is for yourself. As for your son, look at him! How much do you love him? I don't think that you care or love him more than I love Beowulf. Nobody loves him like I do, for long before he ever married you, he was a part of me."

In a few days Beowulf will return to his "loving" wife and children. Grendella will be full of complaints of abuse but Granny must suffer in silence and hope and pray that the one tiny brain being shared by her son and his wife will multiply into two and that true love will prevail which both partners, not just one, learn to give of themselves for the sake of the whole family and then Granny, like the apple of Beowulf's eyes will return to her den beneath the murky forthing waters of the boiling pond of unrequited love.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

DO YOU KNOW?

★ Adding some drops of ammonia to boiling water with melted soap would make jewels and diamonds glitter after having them immersed in this solution.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ Temperature in the South Pole has reached -80.3 degrees centigrade. In case you place a cup of water at such a degree, water evaporates in the form of drizzles of minute snowy crystals.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ A couple of mice may yield 350,000,000 within three years if the reproduction continues during that period.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ The famous Venetian painter, Tintoretto (Little Dyer), made the largest painting in the world when he was still 74.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ Scientists estimate that each cubic mile of oceanic water contains 190 tonnes of iodine.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

SAY IT IN ARABIC

Familiar expressions

— Drive this nail in. *Dok hazal mismar.*
— Give everybody his dues. *Aati koll thee haq haqqahu.*
— Strike the iron when it is hot.
— Walk at your ease. *Idrob Al Hadeed wa howa sakhin.*
— Lend me your ears. *Imshi ala mahlak.*
— Speak frankly, please. *Takallam bisaraha, min fadlak.*
— Sit on the other end of the table. *Ijless alal ma'ida minal jihatil okhra.*

PERPLEXITIES

PLUS FOURS

Below are clues to fourteen four-letter words to be inserted in the open squares in the diagram. When the correct words are discovered, it will be found that each of them may be made into another word by the insertion of a single letter in the centre. These additional letters, which may be placed in the shaded square, form the name of a personality familiar to the readers of JORDAN TIMES.

1. Layer or row
2. Small, thin nail
3. Close
4. To confront
5. A kind of plant

6. Mast
7. Utiliser or employer
8. To twist into thread
9. Measures of weight
10. Price paid
11. Loud ringing of bells
12. A horse
13. Pretty
14. Playing-cards having one spot

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14

— Do make an end of joking.

Kafaka mizahan.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HUMOUR

★ He: "Your dress is too short, my dearest."

She: "What do you mean?"

He: "I mean that your dress looks as if it were a joke."

She: "You're right. It's because the shortest jokes are the best!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ Psychiatrist: "What did you dream of, my lady?"

Lady: "I dreamt I was walking nude in the street with nothing about me except for a hat."

Psychiatrist: "Did you feel ashamed?"

Lady: "Of course, doctor. The hat was very old."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HOROSCOPIC CHART

WHEN WERE YOU BORN?

Feb. 20th to March 20th

People born during this period are just in their dealings, and would not injure another willingly. Their code of honour is a strict one. They are industrious and persistent. They endeavour to perform their share in making the world a better and a happier place.

However, they are too cautious and do not take sufficient risks to make life a complete success. Too often, they ask themselves whether they should go ahead with a project and, while they are hesitating, the opportune moment flies away.

To these people, we say:

- ★ Don't listen to the voice of despair.
- ★ Don't be downhearted, if you don't see, at first, they way to do a thing.
- ★ Don't think in small things. Think large, as the Americans say.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Sept. 16

10:20 Breaking Up

Tony suffer from the separation of his parents. His brother Jimmy tells his mother that he wants to marry his girlfriend. He does not invites his father to the wedding.

8:30 Too Close For Comfort

The Return Of Rafkin

An old lady tells Rafkin that she can call the spirit of her brother.

9:10 H.E.L.P.

Undue Force

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Blind-sided

Starring: Jeff Fahey and Mia Sara

Frank and Lee are two policemen who try to arrest a big gang and while doing his job Frank loses his eyesight and become blind.

Friday, Sept. 17

8:30 Head of the class

As Time Goes By

The board of education sends an inspector to evaluate the IHP. The inspector happens to be an old friend of Mr. Moore.

9:10 Reasonable Doubts

Run Through The Jungle

Eddie Novak, a storeowner, sets a guntrap in his shop. A burglar is shot and Eddie gets into trouble.

10:00 News In English

Saturday, Sept. 18

8:30 It's A Wacky World

Grazy contests in singing and hairdos as well as very dangerous hobbies.

9:30 Varieties — A concert recorded live from Albert Hall, London, for Marc Abroad.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Over-ruled

Starring: John Getz and John Roberstein

Sunday, Sept. 19

8:30 Step By Step

The father trains his sons to play baseball.

9:10 Documentary — The Dream Machine

The Passing Of Remoteness

Following the revolution in computer science, we are now living the digital age.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Mini-Series — The Outsider

The lord is still trying to buy the magazine and Frank decides to stay in his position and keeps Mrs. Neil away from the lord.

Monday, Sept. 20

8:30 The Golden Girls

Dorothy and Blanch go to a men's pub and succeed in getting in. Dorothy sings to them and everybody in the pub surround her and Blanch is left out.

9:10 Thirtysomething

The Other Shoe

Nancy, Elliot's wife, goes through a second course of chemotherapy to treat her cancer, and she educates herself on the disease.

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Series — Le Gerfaut

Le Gerfaut finds his wife, who is in love with the ambassador of Sicily. He kills the ambassador and gets into big trouble which costs him his American nationality.

Tuesday, Sept. 21

8:30 People Next Door

Make Room For Abby

Walter is a very helpful husband. He cleans the house, cooks and does everything which unfortunately makes

his wife angry because she thinks that he is ignoring her existence.

9:00 Faces And Places

A local programme by Roba Assaf

9:30 Documentary — Voyager

Road On Arrival — The Wild Parrot

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — The Band Wagon

Starring: Fred Astaire and Lyd Charisse

Tony Hunter, a singer goes to New York to regain his fame which he almost lost in Hollywood.

Wednesday, Sept. 22

8:30 The Torkisons

Dorothy is shocked to see the police closing up the shop which sells home made jam, vegetables and fruits.

9:10 Documentary

10:00 News In English

10:20 Ashenden

Mr. Harrington Washing

Ashenden goes to Russia to deliver money to the government that is toppled by the Bolsheviks while Ashenden is there.



OSLOBODENJE

Independent Bosnian-Herzegovinian daily newspaper

Editorial Staff: Director General: Salko Hasanefendic. Editor-in-chief: Kemal Kurspahic

Sarajevo

Sept. 16, 1993

Special Edition

1943-1993

Price: 800 BHD

In solidarity with Oslobođenje

IN SEPTEMBER 1943, while war was raging throughout Nazi-occupied Yugoslavia, a group of determined resistance fighters founded Oslobođenje (Liberation). A communist newspaper under Tito, subsequently independent, Oslobođenje is now seen as the standard bearer of the Bosnian press. Even today it is published by Croats, Muslims and Serbs working together.



But it will doubtless be under fire and in any case in a country ravaged by war that Oslobođenje will celebrate, on Sept. 16, 1993, the 50th anniversary of its founding. To mark this anniversary, 82 newspapers will unite their efforts in order to show their solidarity and to pay homage to this newspaper which has become a symbol of resistance in Sarajevo. On the same day, the newspapers participating in the project will publish special sections devoted to Oslobođenje, made up of articles already published in that newspaper, chosen and assembled by Reporters sans Frontières.

Also to mark the occasion, an official ceremony will be held today in the offices of the newspaper, 185, Džemal Bijedić Street. At 11 o'clock there will be a press conference in the basement of the building. At noon, following the official ceremony which will be attended by fellow journalists from throughout the world, there will be a lunch given by the editorial staff. At five o'clock, at the Holiday Inn Hotel, the management of the newspaper will present their projects for reconstruction.

In addition to the Jordan Times the participating newspapers are:

Daily Yomiuri (Japan).	La Presse (Tunisia).
Delo (Slovenia).	L'Archipel (Comoros).
Demotikria (Bulgaria).	La Repubblica (Italy).
Der Standard (Austria).	La Sennane Afrique (Congo).
El Espectador (Colombia).	La Tribune de Genève (Switzerland).
El Diario de Caracas (Venezuela).	Le Messager (Cameroon).
El-Watan (Algeria).	Le Messager (Cambodia).
Feral Tribune (Croatia).	Lidove Noviny (Czech Republic).
France.	L'Oberveur (Mali).
Charlie Hebdo.	L'Opinion (Morocco).
La Jox.	L'Orient-Le Jour (Lebanon).
La Montagne.	Madagascar Tribune (Madagascar).
La Nouvelle République du Centre-Ouest.	Magyar Hírlap (Hungary).
La Voix du Nord.	Milijet & Milijet International (Turkey).
Le Bien Public.	Monitoir (Belgium).
Le Courrier Picard.	Monitoir (Montenegro).
L'Événement du Jeudi.	Nijmegen Hefde (Chad).
Le Public (Portugal).	Publika (Bosnia).
Le Progrès.	Republika (Bosnia).
Le Provençal.	Republika (Macdonia).
La République Lorraine.	Riljandja (Kosovo).
Les Dernières Nouvelles d'Alsace.	Sine (Republic of Slovakia).
Midi Libre.	Soumrag-Zeitung (Switzerland).
Ouest-France.	Sud Quotidien (Senegal).
Sud Ouest.	Tagespost (Germany).
Frankfurter Rundschau (Germany).	The Irish Times (Ireland).
Gazeta Wyborcza (Poland).	The Namibian (Namibia).
Hareket (Israel).	The Nation (Kenya).
Helsingin Sanomat (Finland).	The Guardian (The United Kingdom).
Het Parool (Pays-Bas).	The Weekly Mail (South Africa).
Il Giorno (Italy).	Times of India (India).
Il Mattino (Italy).	To Visto (Croatia).
Journal do Brasil (Brazil).	Ving-Dent (Romania).
Kinyamuka (Rwanda).	Vreme (Serbia).
La Libre Belgique (Belgium).	Weekendavisen (Denmark).
La Nación (Chile).	Yomiuri Shimbun (Japan).
La Presse (Quebec).	Zeri Ramei (Albania).
	Za Rubezhom (Russia).

Oslobođenje is 50

SINCE THE beginning of the war, the whole world has been watching Oslobođenje. And today, when we celebrate our 50th birthday, the international community of journalists will be present with us. Just as when this newspaper was founded 50 years ago by resistance fighters in the Bosnian mountains, the occasion will be marked by extraordinary conditions. Fifty years after the war of liberation against the occupying Nazis, Oslobođenje is once again at the heart of the struggle for freedom of the peoples of Bosnia.

The Oslobođenje offices, once the pride of Sarajevo's new architecture, are now little more than a heap of ruins and ash. However, despite never-ending electricity and water cuts, deprived of fax and telephone, unable to obtain agency dispatches and essential equipment, we still get the newspaper out every night, if necessary by candle light. And every morning, the inhabitants of Sarajevo can buy their newspaper in the street.

Despite the material and human losses we have suffered — five journalists killed, more than 12 missing without trace and about thirty wounded — the free spirit of our paper is stronger than ever. The staff of Oslobođenje are the exact image — not only ethically, but ethnically — of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Among us, Croats, Muslims and Serbs who are all Bosnian citizens, continue to work together as they did before the war. They fight each day to bring out the paper which has become the symbol of Sarajevo's resistance. The entire population of our besieged city identifies with Oslobođenje.

More than ever, in addition to our professional competence, we have the "spirit of Oslobođenje" giving its special force of conviction to everything we write. Indeed, our paper has been awarded some of the most important international prizes for journalists, in Spain, the United States, France, Britain, Scandinavia.

If our paper has managed to survive despite the atrocious conditions brought by the war, it is also thanks to the solidarity of journalists throughout the world. When we have run out of paper, lost all lines of communication, when food has been getting short, journalists from Europe and the entire world have rallied round to help us. For all those working on Oslobođenje, this material support has been crucial.

But even more precious is the moral support we have received. During the worst days of the siege, under the most lethal bombardments, knowing that we were not alone, and that we were still a part of the great family of journalists, has helped strengthen our will to survive.

Moreover, we are certain that thanks to this international solidarity, we will be able to rebuild our offices as soon as our city has been liberated. The new building will be a monument to the glory of the newspaper which refused to die and which proved, by publishing every day throughout the war, that guns, cannons and tanks are not enough to stifle the freedom of speech. This freedom we have preserved will make up the most painful, but also the most precious page, in the 50-year history of Oslobođenje.

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor-in-Chief

DONATIONS

You can support Oslobođenje and take part in the reconstruction of the newspaper by sending your donation to:

Oslobođenje c/o Reporters Sans Frontières
17, rue de l'Abbé de l'Épée
34000 Montpellier — France

IT WAS ONE YEAR AGO

They are all our children

"YESTERDAY, AT the Lav cemetery ... How many times, in the last few months, have I begun an article with this phrase? Truly, war is nothing but an endless chronicle of deaths ..."

Yesterday, then, at the Lav cemetery, the funeral of Sanella Memić took place. She was 10 years old. A week ago, she had been wounded in the head by a piece of shrapnel, just in front of the building where she lived, in Djordje Andrejević Kun street, near the old parade ground. On Sunday afternoon, we learned that she had died of her wounds.

It was Aug. 3, 1992. A torrid summer's day. I arrived at the old parade ground at about 11 o'clock. Just as I stopped in front of the main door to the apartment block, there was a terrifying explosion behind me. I heard the sound of a car being flung into the air and a shower of metal battering the windows and the walls. Ten metres away from me, I could see a cloud of smoke and dust. Cries filled the air, children's cries. A group of people were huddling in the door of the next house; beside a dustbin, two bodies were stretched out on the ground. A man in a camouflage jacket approached, I went to join him. We lifted up the young man who was lying beside the dustbin and put him in the car. At that moment, a second missile fell.

The young man, lying on the back seat of the car, was drenched in his own blood. He had a fractured arm, the left arm; I think there was blood spurting everywhere. His face white as chalk, he kept repeating: "I can't feel my arm, I can't feel it ..."

A man, carrying a young girl in his arms, ran up to us. He was distraught, and kept crying: "My child is wounded, my child ...". The girl was unconscious; behind her and the man who was carrying her was a trail of blood. We set them down on the front seat. I took a hundred copies of Oslobođenje out of the car, which I'd taken to sell on the old parade ground, and saw them blow away down the street. Just at that moment, the people brought another young man to us. I knew him. He was called Samir and had recently suffered a severe wound in his chest. This time he was injured in the leg. A bandage was tied just above his knee. The man with the young girl, still crying that his child was dying, got into the back, next to the young man with the wounded arm, while Samir sat in the front. I was starting the engine, when another

person was brought to us, a woman who was bleeding from her leg. We helped her get into the boot as best she could.

Everything that happened during the journey, until we got to the Emergency Unit, passed as if in a dream. It was a nightmare, in which every sequence was spattered with blood. There was blood everywhere. The girl, wounded in the back of the head, was unconscious for most of the time. I didn't dare look at her. I could see a little arm swinging, her hair sticky with blood clinging to her forehead and her cheeks. At one moment I thought she opened her eyes, dark and vacant. The man who was holding her never stopped speaking, apparently in shock himself. I remember the words which he was shouting: "Faster, faster friend! My child is still alive, she's still alive!" A little while afterwards, he continued: "She's warm; she's still warm, friend". Then: "My God, she's getting cold, my child is getting cold. Those sons of bitches! I'll kill them, those murderers, no one will stop me! My child is still alive, friend!"

The two young men had lost consciousness too. Samir, sitting in front, leaned his head on my shoulder. Blood was running from his leg and soaking into the mat on the floor. I learned that the "other", in the back seat, was called Slavica; he managed to stay awake for a while. But eventually he died. The woman in the boot was the mother of the young girl. I was told she was called Stefica.

All four of them were admitted to the Emergency Unit. Two or three minutes later, they brought the girl back to us, a white bandage wrapped around her head. We had to take her to the Central Hospital. We put her back into the car and sped off. Ten minutes later an ambulance came with the three other casualties. I saw Samir and Slavica, unconscious, being carried in on stretchers. A man in white was looking after them, he held a bottle of liquid on a drip above their two bodies. The woman, wounded in the leg, sitting on a trolley, was waiting in the corridor, opposite the door behind which the doctors were fighting for her daughter's life.

In the corridor, the man who had carried the girl there took off his shirt, which was soaked with blood. Together we went into the toilets to wash our hands. We exchanged a few words. He told me the girl was called Sanella.



Victims of a vicious civil war (Photo by Patrick Robert SYGMA)

"Her father will lose his mind when he hears of this", he said.

"She's not your daughter?" I asked.

"No, but she was my favourite child in the whole block".

"You keep saying: My child is dying!"

"She really was my favourite. Aren't all these children our children?"

I learned later that the man's name was Mirsad Kreco.

We went back to the old parade ground, in the burning heat.

The nightmare continued. There was blood all around us. A thick layer of blood had congealed over the back seat of my car. There was blood everywhere: in the boot, under our feet, on the doors of the car. At the place where we had helped the wounded into the car, there were still large pools of blood on the ground. That evening a heavy

shower fell and washed them away.

I gathered up the newspapers to take them back into town. I gave them to Stanko Steiner, the hawk. The next day, he said: "I didn't sell anything. No one wanted to buy newspapers stained with blood."

Two or three days later, in the same part of town, a missile fired from Serb positions killed a two-year-old girl. The next day, in front of another building, Dragan Balaton, 18 years old, was killed. He wanted to cross the path that separated the two buildings, a distance of about 30 metres. The missile fell just in front of him. A bouquet of flowers has been placed on the spot.

The casualties from the building at number three are slowly getting better. Stefica didn't need to be hospitalised, she was able to return home straightaway. The doctors were able to save Slav-

isa's arm and Samir's leg. Sanella, who was Mirsad Kreco's favourite, died. The light which flickered and went out in her eyes, the streams of blood which flowed from her carrying her life with them, the little hand which tried to fend off the shadow of death, which came to rest in her hair, these fragments make up the last image which I keep of her. Because of this image, I seem to have definitively lost hope that this war may be over soon. It will go on for a long time yet, until all the witnesses of the massacre on that torrid August day have disappeared in their turn. But the worst of it is not the murder of our bodies, but the murder of our souls. And that is why this war is truly interminable...

Vlado Mrkic
Aug. 12, 1993

OSLOBODENJE AND SARAJEVO

More than just a newspaper

RECENTLY, IN one of the many texts that have been published about Oslobođenje in the international press, I read the following statement: "A small Sarajevo newspaper, which yesterday no one had heard of and which could have been considered almost insignificant in the context of world journalism, has today become the symbol of the struggle for freedom of information and for the freedom of the press in general ..."

In Sarajevo itself, at a moment when the recent evolution of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina could hardly have been foreseen, one of the most prominent representatives of the HCR, Larry Longenhovort, had observed that, for the besieged city, Oslobođenje was "much more than just a newspaper". The truth of this remark can no longer be contested, and is now recognised as well by those who don't like Oslobođenje, as by its faithful readers.

Today it is difficult to predict the future of this newspaper and of the journalists who continue to produce it with enthusiasm, working out of a ruined building. However, it is clear that henceforward the name of Oslobođenje will remain inscribed in the history of journalism as an honourable and instructive example of what is possible even in such

conditions.

There are three essential reasons for which Oslobođenje has played an invaluable role in the lives of the inhabitants of the city of Sarajevo under siege. Above all, the newspaper has fulfilled its principal function, that of informing the Sarajevans — along with those outside the city whom the paper has been able to reach — of what is happening in Sarajevo and in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in ex-Yugoslavia and in the entire world. Deprived of electricity, and of radio and television also, Oslobođenje is often the only source of news available to the people of the city.

The existence of Oslobođenje is the irrefutable demonstration that in Sarajevo, life is stronger than death

The news it prints is all the more important because, in spite of the surrounding folly, the newspaper has managed to preserve its independence and its freedom of action. In this way, the news has been protected from the violence which others might have done to it.

The second reason why Oslobođenje is unique is the way in which it is produced: in almost impossible conditions, fifty metres from the front line, in a

charred and ruined building, constantly attacked and bombarded, with communication lines broken and no electricity, no water, no heating. Its journalists have become the model of resistance. They have shown that the aggressor cannot attain his chief objective of bringing the life of the town to a standstill. The existence of Oslobođenje is the irrefutable demonstration that in Sarajevo life is stronger than death. Psychologically, it has been a great victory for the Sarajevans and a significant defeat for the occupying forces.

Finally, and for some most importantly of all, throughout the

war, the staff of the newspaper has been made up of journalists of different ethnic and religious origins: Muslims, Serbs and Croats have worked together. Their professionalism is stronger than the nationalist hysteria. For these people, national divisions represent a set of regressive attitudes provoked by strong external pressures. They are not "natural necessity", as the neo-Nazi ideologues of the Balkans have tried to claim, often with the



support of European leaders. The fact that a common life is possible, even in the worst conditions — as at Oslobođenje during the war — has perhaps contributed to the popularity of the newspaper among the ordinary people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. At the

same time, it has earned it the hatred of the chauvinists and the fascists who want to carve the country up, and who claim that this common life is nothing but idle nostalgia or pure hypothesis. These reasons for which Oslobođenje is today far more than a

newspaper, are also the reasons for which the butchers of Bosnia-Herzegovina are so keen to see it disappear. Unfortunately, these daily attacks on the newspaper which continue to deprive it of the bare minimum which it requires to continue its work, have been supported by political manoeuvring outside ex-Yugoslavia, and particularly at the United Nations. The decision, taken some time ago, that the paper and videocassettes which the Sarajevo media need do not "deserve" to be given space in the humanitarian aid convoys, has not been reversed, despite the considerable pressure brought to bear by many international, humanitarian and professional organisations. It seems that Oslobođenje is to pay the price of unmasking the incredible international hypocrisy that surrounds the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Unfortunately, things will not change now. The inhabitants of the city know this, they who have already lost everything except their dignity. That is why Oslobođenje will remain their newspaper, however many pages it may have, whatever its format or the colour of the paper on which it is printed.

Zlatko Dizdarevic
September 16, 1993

Some progress made on 'crib death' research

By Paula Sands

NEW HAVEN, USA — Every baby born is at some risk of dying of SIDS (sudden infant death syndrome, also called crib death) simply because we have not yet determined what causes what has become a parent's nightmare, says Dr. Gabriel G. Haddad, professor of pediatrics at the Yale University School of Medicine. Nevertheless, Dr. Haddad is optimistic that continuing research in various countries will uncover the root causes of the problem.

As its name indicates, SIDS is the sudden, apparently unexplainable death of infants, particularly in the first few months of life. "The peak incidence is usually at two to three months of age," Dr. Haddad explained. "It's usually unexpected because the infants look normal to their pediatricians and to their parents. It is not necessarily true that they are OK. Obviously, they are dying."

Dr. Haddad, 46, says scientists have discovered more about these infants and about the fact that they may have experienced some form of stress. "It is possible that their deaths could be linked to a chronic type of stress," he says, "for example, he says that there's a high incidence of

babies who die of SIDS in pregnancies subjected to maternal cigarette smoke. "Opinions vary," Dr. Haddad said, "but some of the abnormalities that we see — some of the differences between these babies and normal babies — could be attributed to abnormalities when they were fetuses. Potentially, insufficient blood flow to the fetus during pregnancy could be part of the problem. Malnutrition is another stress on the system that could play a role."

At this stage, Dr. Haddad says, there is not enough evidence to suggest that SIDS is genetic or has genetic roots, or is caused by chromosomal problems, although he doesn't rule it out. "The genetic evidence is not there, but there is some family tendency. There are some families and not in others. If a sibling has had SIDS, there is an increased chance that the next infant may have SIDS."

A number of autopsy studies of brain stems have been done. "It's difficult to study this in detail in humans," Dr. Haddad explained. But "autopsies have indicated that there are some abnormalities."

The problem with these studies, Dr. Haddad says, is that questions remain. "First, we do not know whether this is a primary or a secondary type of problem. We do not know whether this type of abnormality leads to the demise, or whether it is a consequence of the stress, a hypoxia that has nothing to do with the demise. Second, we do not know whether it is a consequence of low oxygen that could have existed in the brains of these infants as a consequence of upper airway obstruction or central apnea (when babies temporarily stop breathing), or something else."

At this stage, the functional significance of the pathology seen in the brain stems of young victims is unknown. "What does it prove?" Dr. Haddad asked. "Is it really tied to the pathology and to the reason for death — or is it a byproduct, a reflection of an overall type of pathology not only of the brain but of other things as well?"

The total number of infants afflicted by SIDS in the U.S. is about 7,000-10,000, but the rate at which infants die of SIDS is not the same for all ethnic groups. For example, Oriental infants or infants of parents of Oriental descent in the U.S. have a very low incidence of SIDS. Afro-

American and Hispanic infants have a much higher incidence of SIDS.

"In Europe — in countries like Sweden and other Scandinavian countries — the incidence is a little lower than in the U.S. but still substantial," Dr. Haddad said. "If you look at the death of infants in the past 20 years, the rate in general has decreased. When you extract SIDS data, the SIDS figures are either the same for the past 20 years or have even increased in the past few years."

The issue of SIDS is difficult to assess for Third World countries because of a lack of statistics. "There are so many other reasons for infant mortality in these countries," Dr. Haddad said. "SIDS is really masked. One could always see other types of pathology in the babies who die."

Dr. Haddad and his Yale colleagues have worked closely with physicians in England for the last six years. "In England they did a study on about 10,000 infants. A number of these infants subsequently died of SIDS and we have obtained some of their data," Dr. Haddad said. Now scientists are comparing the data to determine if there were differences between the infants that died and those that survived. "We have also exchanged ideas with physicians in Sweden."

"At this stage," Dr. Haddad said, "I think that the risk factors are related to prenatal care and to what happens in the first two or three months. Any baby who is born smaller for gestational age than normal, from a growth perspective, is at higher risk. Babies that seem to be subject to upper respiratory infection seem to be at higher risk. Maternal smoking seems to increase the incidence, although alcohol use does not."

"There's quite a bit of debate going on," Dr. Haddad

said. "Work is taking place in a number of countries — Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand — related to the position of the baby in sleep. Babies in the prone position — when infants lie on their stomachs, especially face down — seem to be at higher risk. At the death scene, more infants are found prone and face down or face on the side. In the supine position — when infants lie on their backs — babies may be less prone to SIDS."

But is the position of the infant the whole story? Dr. Haddad says no. "Position may be a factor that one should be aware of. Other risk factors interact with the prone or supine position. Increasing the heat around the baby by overbundling may be important — and it is important only if the baby is prone rather than supine. At this time, we really do not understand what matters, but they may all be risk factors."

Infant apnea, a fairly common occurrence, is also suspected. There are two kinds of apnea. The first is no breathing or no airflow at the mouth and nose. "That can come from two things," Dr. Haddad said. "Either the central nervous system is not giving the command to the respiratory muscles to contract and therefore inflate and deflate the lungs or the command is there and the muscles are contracting to inflate and deflate the lungs but there is an obstruction in the airway preventing it."

The first is called central apnea because it is a problem of the central nervous sys-

tem. The other one is called obstructive apnea because it is an obstructive problem of the airways. "We do not believe that central apnea is linked, but we are not sure," Dr. Haddad said. "We believe obstructive apnea may be linked, but, again, we are not sure."

Dr. Haddad says monitoring the heart and breathing rate of a baby is no guarantee of preventing SIDS for a number of reasons. "We have had infant deaths on monitors, so that hasn't been terribly effective," Dr. Haddad said. "It might help in certain instances — we cannot rule it out completely. If we give a monitor to a home, the parents are sustaining their own babies. Psychologically, it's a major undertaking for both the parents and the physicians."

Furthermore, Dr. Haddad says, doctors are not sure what to monitor — heart rate, respiratory rate — or how to monitor. In addition, some monitors can give false or misleading information. "Should we monitor other things that would be more important than heart rate or respiratory rate?" Dr. Haddad asked. "Should we monitor the oxygen level in the blood? Would that give us different information or more important information?" A study in progress, sponsored by the National Institute of Health, is looking at these questions and monitoring a large number of infants.

"What is frightening," Dr. Haddad, who has three children of his own, added, "is that every newborn seems to



Dr. Gabriel G. Haddad

be at some risk." Some infants who died seemed healthy, seemed not to have suffered from anything before birth, and seemed to have been OK in the first few months of life.

Nor can Dr. Haddad explain why the rate of SIDS is higher among Afro-Americans and Hispanics. "We do not know whether it is related to poor or irregular prenatal care. It is possible that it is partly related to socioeconomic status, education and reliance on medical advice."

Statistics are unavailable for people of Arabic background. Dr. Haddad, who was born in Lebanon and who attended the American University of Beirut, has dis-

cussed the problem with Lebanese colleagues. "The statistics are not there. In Israel, the incidence is commensurate with that of Europe — and there are statistics there. I don't think we have many statistics for Jordan, Egypt, Syria, North Africa or India."

Clinical research on infants, as well as basic research on animal models, is going on in the U.S. and abroad. "Some progress has been made. Funding is being maintained at a high level. Progress should be made," Dr. Haddad noted. But for now nobody knows whether crib death will turn out to be one disease or a generic term covering many different problems — World News Link.



Experts now say that putting a baby to sleep on its back, rather than its stomach, may help prevent crib death

Controversial AIDS vaccine trial now set for 1994

By Paul Reecer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A controversial AIDS vaccine trial that has been opposed by federal health officials despite a special \$20 million appropriation will start next year under the direction of the army, a drug company announced.

Microgenex Inc., a Connecticut company that paid a lobbyist to persuade Congress to appropriate money for the large-scale drug trial, said trials of its Vaxsyn AIDS vaccine will start early next year.

The company said the clinical trial will be under the direction of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and will involve 5,000 to 10,000 patients who are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Vaxsyn is the Microgenex form of an engineered protein called GP160 that mimics the protein that covers the surface of the AIDS virus. In small, early trials, the vaccine was found to stimulate some responses in the human immune system.

Officials of Microgenex bypassed the NIH approval process last year by hiring former Sen. Russell Long to lobby in Congress for funding of a Vaxsyn trial. Last October, a \$20 million special appropriation calling for a

drug trial was slipped into the \$10 billion Department of Defense appropriation. The bill called for the army to conduct the vaccine trial unless there were technical objections from the NIH and from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

After a series of meetings, federal health officials concluded that GP160 did not merit a drug trial, when measured by classical scientific standards, but they decided that there was some scientific value in testing the drug against candidate vaccines made by other companies.

But scientists at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) had earlier rejected proposals that the federal government finance a full-scale trial of Vaxsyn. NIH experts said they believe the vaccine did not show enough promise to justify the expense of a large trial.

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Children still face brain damage because of lead — report

SYDNEY (AFP) — Two hundred thousand Australian children face the risk of brain damage because of a "completely preventable" problem, lead in petrol, a medical study has warned.

The report by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), follows a bitter backlash against the Australian government over budget measures announced last month to increase the tax on leaded petrol in an effort to reduce its use.

Substantially endorsing the government move, the study

warned there was an urgent need to reduce lead levels in petrol and tighten air pollution standards.

But it said one in six children — 200,000 — would still be left with too much lead in their blood despite plans by government and industry to cut the lead content in petrol to 0.2 grammes a litre by 1995.

At its June meeting, the NHMRC recommended a limit of no more than 10 microgrammes of lead per decilitre of blood, but did not

set a date for reaching that target.

About 44 per cent of Australian children had blood lead levels above the goal, the report said.

Between one and three IQ points are thought to be lost for each 10 microgrammes of lead in a decilitre of a child's blood.

Petrol produces 90 per cent of atmospheric lead and lead in petrol should be cut immediately to 0.15 grammes a litre, the report recommended, but said the govern-

ment should examine whether to cut lead levels to the U.S. level of 0.026 grammes per litre.

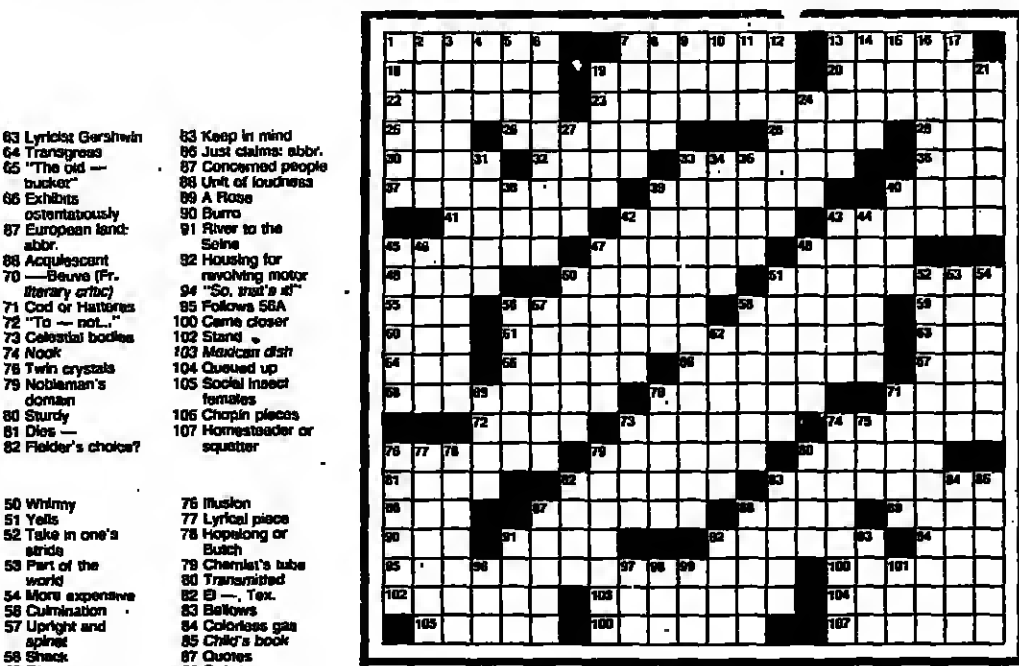
It also recommended that two cents per litre of petrol excise be set aside for lead reduction programmes.

The government had budgeted for a five cents a litre differential excise for leaded petrol, but reduced it to two cents after protests by its own backbench that its impact fell too heavily on the lower paid who drive the oldest cars.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

FOR KIDS AND OTHERS
By Ross M. Campbell

ACROSS
1. Gift of a...
7. Kind of...
13. Dime...
16. Title...
19. Expansion...
20. T-shirt and...
21. Dislike...
22. Start of a...
23. Vietnamese...
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Last Week's Cryptograms

- Wayward drummer hangs away on used bougie. Neighbors throw shoes.
- Nearly eighty percent of pale orchids are found to be colored a light blue-red.
- Two sets of part twice came forward toward fastenings to claim.
- Evil gossip revealed in sowing and growing vine grapevines.

CRYPTOCRAMS

1. QTDV QV TVBCHEF VKCV "ABCDEF" XAFDVB BKZCP NQVE "EBCDEF" "GCHFE" AB CDZ AVKEF NABX? —By Duane H. McGary
2. MATCH MACH ANY YTLA IN UGSTCH TX QGSTCH UTKLA WATCH ANY QCCX QUIBLAW WI LUTCH. —By Ed Huddleston
3. SCF BOVINEPAL UTEZVBU "VYZUFFGL" ICOR BZCINUA PE OUTEVAPAE IVYSVE. —By Frank N. Stein
4. NBOB WK CLUE IULWE SNOWL OOB ILRWLUT SNOON ABXL ILKRL NETWLZ NLEWLUTXLEWLU WK TLEWLU BRAXTW LCLUB TLEBTEZ. —By Eugene T. Malachuk

Diagramless 17 x 17, By Don Johnson

ACROSS
1. Wood used for...
8. Beer...
10. Let's make...
11. Tenth of...
12. Tenth of...
13. Tenth of...
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SOLUTIONS

Perplexities

PLUS FOURS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
T	B	S	F	B	S	U	S	T	C	P	R	N	A
I	R	H	A	E	P	S	P	O	O	E	O	I	C
G	E	O	R	G	E	H	A	W	A	T	M	E	H
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For those who are not familiar with the personality in the above puzzle, George Hawatmeh is the Editor in Chief of the Jordan Times.

Jordan and the economics of the autonomy deal

(Continued from page 1)

approval from Jordan to export set quantities at set dates of entry, and tight regulations were justified by Jordan on the basis they meant to prevent infiltration of Israeli goods.

A Palestinian economist living in the occupied territories said while the trade balance had always been in favour of the West Bank, Jordan benefited from services rendered to Palestinians from the occupied territories around the year, and these amount to over \$200 million. They include crossing activity through the bridges, medical treatment in Jordanian hospitals, fees for renewing Jordanian passports, staying in hotels when using Jordan as a transit, university fees of Palestinian students, deposits of West Bank residents in Jordanian banks, and Arab and international aid, private or official, used to sit in Jordanian banks before they were transferred to the occupied territories, and at times it would be deposited in hard currency and delivered to Palestinians in the Jordanian dinar. He said Palestinian deposits in one bank alone, Cairo Amman Bank, were \$80 million and the bank's branch in the occupied territories does not invest this money in the occupied territories; instead, they are deposited in the Central Bank of Jordan in the form of treasury bonds.

Some officials were deeply perturbed by the possibility that Israel and the Palestinians would form an economic confederation or an economic union, which would leave Jordan's economy vulnerable and its ability to influence marginal.

"The formation of Israeli-Palestinian committees in all fields gives the impression of the formation of a union between the occupied territories and Israel, instead of a confederation between Jordan and Palestinians," said prominent Jordanian banker Fakri Bilbeisi. "This compels Jordan to reassess its priorities and protect its own interests and its economic security."

Some officials and businessmen say the protection of Jordanian economic interests would be total separation between Jordan and the Palestinian entity, and Jordanians of Palestinian origin would have to choose between remaining in Jordan or leaving to the occupied territories.

But opponents of this idea say compelling Palestinians to choose would have a detrimental impact on Jordan's economy since Palestinians, who make up almost half of the 3.9 million population are skilled labourers and successful businessmen. Separation would force capital flight, and

the fears of Palestinian cash outflow would then become a reality.

Information Minister Ma'n Abu Nowar said that capital flight would be detrimental to Jordan's economy because a large percentage of business in Jordan are owned by Palestinians. Other officials speculated some capital flight which could affect the Jordanian economy, but they expect only 10 per cent of Palestinians living in Jordan to actually leave for the occupied territories.

Echoing socio-economic concerns of many bankers and businessmen, Mr. Bilbeisi queried whether the huge deposits in Jordanian banks of Palestinians residing inside the occupied territories would now be moved to Palestinian banks that would be set up in the Palestinian self-rule area, and how many Palestinian businessmen would now invest there instead of Jordan. Would Palestinian labourers move to Jordan for employment if improvement in living conditions took a slow pace inside the occupied territories?

"I think Jordanian concerns about the PLO-Israeli agreement are economic related rather than political," said a Jordanian businessman. "For over two decades, Jordan's economy has grown with the help of the Palestinian population here, and they have participated in building and improving the economy, despite the successive massive inflow of refugees and displaced persons and returnees, which exhausted our infrastructure and services."

He said Jordanian economists were wary of the fact that if Palestinian businessmen now decided to invest somewhere else or move their money to build the Palestinian economy, in the absence of Arab aid, Jordan's economy would suffer. Furthermore, Jordan's previous role in safeguarding Palestinian interests and hosting the largest number of Palestinians and acting as their custodian, would now be diminished because Arab and international aid allocated to Palestinians channelled through Jordan would now go directly to Palestinians.

PLO economists confirmed that the PLO will focus on attracting Palestinian diaspora businessmen and their expertise in building the occupied territories' infrastructure. The PLO's seven-year development programme, a two-stage economic rehabilitation plan, envisions attracting investment by wealthy successful Palestinians living in the diaspora. A Palestinian economist said the PLO intends to make use of their successful experiences in the two Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia and in the Gulf in order to build a strong and free Palestinian economy.

Renowned Palestinian eco-

nomist Jawad Al Naji said: "We are seeking a large role for Palestinian capital in financing the Palestinian development process."

Mr. Naji said in the building process of the Palestinian economy, the PLO will encourage a larger role for the private sector, and the less government interference the better the economy. "We want to encourage the concept of the free market and modern economy," he said.

He said the Israeli occupation imposed an imbalanced relationship between the Israeli and Palestinian economies, one of total dependency of the latter on the former.

"One of the most pressing priorities of the Palestinian self-rule authority would be to disengage the two economies and start building a healthy and strong Palestinian independent economy," Mr. Naji said. "We would be cheating ourselves if we thought we would implement this disengagement or end Israeli occupation overnight."

He said the agreement gave Palestinians the right to enact laws within the powers transferred to it from Israel. "Therefore I would be able to determine the means of administering my economic relations with other parties."

Thus, he stressed, this is the time for serious, businesslike coordination and cooperation with Jordan in all fields in order to reap mutual benefits because Israel's struggle with Arabs is an economic one and not a military struggle.

Jordan and the PLO formed six joint committees in July aimed at paving the way for future relations between the Palestinian interim authority and the Kingdom. Following the PLO-Israeli accord, these committees have to be reshaped and the visions for future relations have to be explored in light of the new realities.

Palestinian economists said the previous Jordanian perceptions of economic cooperation with the emerging Palestinian entity lacked the possible vision of the establishment of an independent Palestinian economy. It either had to be dependent on Israel's or Jordan's economy.

"We think that relations have to be discussed on an equal footing now," said one Palestinian economist.

Since the occupied territories are going to enjoy very brisk economic development with international help, Jordanian officials became more concerned with economic disparities on the East Bank of the River Jordan, which might lead to instability. To safeguard itself, Jordan will demand a bigger share of aid for development from Arab and international institutions and states.

"The economic disparity be-

tween the two banks of the River Jordan will affect us in terms of demography," Dr. Anani said. "If the West Bank and Gaza Strip enjoy a bonanza of foreign aid and economic development, then Palestinians living here and denied access to the occupied territories start making claims on the Jordanian government which it can't meet, then we will have problems."

Jordan is already applying stringent adjustment and restructuring policies, and in the absence of sufficient funds, there will be more unemployment, higher prices, a higher poverty rate, leading to instability, according to Dr. Anani.

That is why Jordan will demand compensation for the 1.1 million Palestinians living in squalid refugee camps. The issue of the refugees and displaced persons is one of the thorny issues that Jordan and the PLO would negotiate with Israel.

According to U.N. Resolution 237, displaced Palestinians who fled the 1967 war into Jordan and other Arab states have the right to return. But U.N. resolutions 194, 242 and 338 give 1948 Palestinian refugees the right of return or compensation.

Jordan hosts the largest number of refugees and displaced persons. Dr. Anani said they are almost 1.7 or 1.8 million, and the Jordanian government spends \$300 million annually on refugees from its budget.

Compensation for the refugees and more aid would help achieve the imbalance that might be created as a result of huge sums of money poured for the development of the occupied territories and overlooking or marginalising Jordanian needs.

However, if real peace is installed in the region, Jordan could attract foreign business agricultural industries. It could become a services and maintenance centre. Tourism could be boosted, and Jordan could benefit from the international division of labour, according to Western diplomats and officials.

"But this is not the real problem," a senior Jordanian official said. "The real problem lies in the huge difference that exists between the size of the Palestinian economy and that of Israel. A GDP per capita income of \$800 for the former has to compete with a \$14,000 for the latter. It can't be an equal match, if the Palestinians were left to deal with Israel. The Israelis would simply gobble up the Palestinian economy."

"That is why the Palestinians would be better off if they deal with the Jordanians," the senior official said. "At least there will be complementarity between us. Our economies won't be far apart."

King welcomes Israel-PLO accord

(Continued from page 1)

bilateral talks to do whatever can be done to bring a qualitative change on this region as far as people are concerned.

Q: What exactly do you see emerging? Do you see a Palestinian state in confederation with Jordan? There has been also talk about possible Israeli-Palestinian confederation. How do you see this emerging?

A: I honestly can't tell at this point in time. But for Jordan to contemplate a confederation with Palestine for example there has to be a Palestine there, and the opportunity for people on both sides in such eventually to exercise their right to choose — would they like to have a federation or confederation or another system of living. This has to come at a time when the Palestinians are ready to speak for themselves freely and make a choice, and Jordanians equally.

Q: With the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli agenda, what do you see the toughest question to resolve?

A: There are many problems to be addressed. But I don't think that I could categorise any of

them as more difficult than others. We have obvious problems regarding the human dimension of the equation in terms of fact that Jordan has been the country that has absorbed all the results of the setbacks which the Arabs suffered. I and the Palestinians in particular, over the many years that have passed. So there is that dimension. There are other issues that affect us in terms of proximity and rights in formulating the kind of peace that all of us have been seeking for a long period of time, a just and honourable peace for the future generations, for the children to live together in peace and a kind of world that was denied them for so long.

A: We will continue to support Palestinians as best as we can. We will have to restructure our negotiations in a sense that Jordan will deal with problems directly with the Israelis regarding the agenda that was ratified yesterday and we will also have to take another look at how to deal with the matters that affect Palestinians and Israelis. So there will be a new structure of negotiations without Palestinian brethren as well as approach to the problem

with regard to the Palestinians and the Israelis.

Q: Now the peace process is moving along, how do you see relationship with the Gulf states. Do you see it improving? A: I have never wished that rela-

tions with the Gulf states or any other states in the region to be anything but perfect. I will be more than happy to see them returned to the level that we had before and to have them established again.

Palestinian killed

(Continued from page 1)

trend is clearly worrying security chiefs.

Roadblocks were set up Wednesday at entrances to major cities and markets, tourist spots and synagogues would be heavily protected.

The near two-million Palestinians living in the occupied territories already require a special permit to enter occupied Jerusalem and Israel in a bus launched at the end of March.

However 50,000 permits have been issued for workers to enter the Jewish state.

In the Shal, refugee camp at the home of Buhassadin Najjar, one of the Palestinians who died Tuesday, several dozen people gathered to celebrate his death as a "martyrdom" to the Palestinian cause.

Najjar was a 19-year-old activist with the fundamentalist Islamic Hamas movement. His parents told the Associated Press they were happy their son died protesting the peace agreement.

"I was happy when I heard my son was martyred," said his mother, Mariam, 42.

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Arafat faces continued dissent

(Continued from page 1)

On hand to greet Mr. Arafat at the airport was the U.S. ambassador to Tunis, John MacCarthy, who had studiously shunned him in the past because of American policy banning contacts with the PLO.

Libya's official JANA news agency reported Wednesday that two of Mr. Arafat's staunchest opponents, George Habash and Nayef Hawatme, have met Colonel Muammar Qadhafi in Tripoli.

Libya has denounced the peace accord.

JANA gave no details of the meeting and did not say when it took place. But Mr. Hawatme was reported to have been in Tunis two days ago — while Mr. Arafat was in Washington — seeking to forge an alliance with Mr. Arafat's opponents in the PLO hierarchy.

Mr. Hawatme heads the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). Mr. Habash leads the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

The two groups are the biggest in the PLO after Mr. Arafat's Fatah.

They are already allied with eight non-PLO factions, including the Gaza-based Hamas fundamentalist faction, in opposition to the peace accord.

These factions accuse Mr. Arafat of selling out the Palestinians and want to convene a Palestinian "national conference" to forge a

united front against the peace pact.

PLO sources said Mr. Arafat emissaries have been sent to various Arab capitals to persuade opponents of the accord who have left Tunis in recent days to return and make up with Mr. Arafat.

The sources said a key figure Mr. Arafat wants to woo back is Khaled Al Hassan, a veteran Fatah leader currently in Morocco.

He and his younger brother Hani were staunch Arafat associates until the PLO leader's decision to back Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

The official Iraqi News Agency reported Wednesday that the PLO's "foreign minister," Farouk Kaddumi, met in Baghdad Tuesday with Iraq's deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz. It gave no details.

PLO officials said Mr. Kaddumi was in Baghdad to explain the peace pact and seek Iraq's backing, even though he was one of the members of the PLO's ruling Executive Committee who rejected the accord last week.

The committee, including Mr. Arafat, voted eight to three in favour of the plan, with one abstention. Mr. Kaddumi himself walked out of the meeting before the vote.

But five of the 18 members had resigned in an unprecedented protest before the meeting and their votes would almost certainly have scuppered Mr. Arafat's plan.

Rabin: Syria must prove itself

(Continued from page 1)

helping remove obstacles to Middle East peace.

In his second telephone contact with Mr. Assad in six days, Mr. Clinton expressed Washington's anxiety to follow up its efforts for the success of the peace process, spokesman Juhra Kourieh said.

Mr. Kourieh said Mr. Clinton "stressed the importance of efforts to achieve progress on all tracks and renewed the U.S. commitment to the peace process and to cooperate to iron out obstacles obstructing it."

Mr. Assad assured Mr. Clinton of "continued Syrian commitment to the peace process," his anxiety for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and his readiness of cooperation to achieve this goal," Mr. Kourieh said.

Syria has promised to support the Palestinian cause until an independent Palestinian state is formed with Jerusalem as its capital, a Palestinian group said.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said a three-man delegation headed by its leader George Habash received the pledge during a meeting with Syrian Vice-president Abdul Halim Khaddam Tuesday. "Khaddam affirmed continued Syrian support for the Palestinian people and their national rights until the creation of an independent Palestinian state with Holy Jerusalem as its capital," the group said in a statement.

The delegation told Mr. Khaddam that the Palestinians would struggle to foil the PLO-Israeli accord and to establish an independent state, the statement added.

Syria's state-controlled media made no mention of the meeting. Syria has refrained from directly attacking the PLO-Israeli peace deal but has made no secret of its irritation over the agreement which was reached outside the framework of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington.

President Assad denied PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat last Sunday's public support for the deal saying it was up to the Palestinian people and their institutions to decide what suited them.

The PFLP is one of 10 Damascus-based groups opposed to the interim self-rule agreement signed by the PLO and Israel.

Syria's state-controlled media have mounted a non-stop but oblique attack on the deal, criticising "fragmented, distorted, partial and unilateral deals."

Meanwhile, Syria is consulting its Arab partners in the peace talks following the signing of the autonomy accord and the Jordanian-Israeli peace agenda, officials said.

President Assad discussed the latest developments with King Hussein in a telephone call Tuesday a few hours after the signing in Washington of the agenda.

The two leaders examined "means of coordinating their action in order to confront the challenges facing the Arab Nation," an official in Amman said.

Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zoubi and a delegation of cabinet ministers arrived in Beirut Wednesday for a two-day visit aimed at signing several bilateral accords.

Israel-Syria peace talks have stalled over the Golan Heights. Syria demands full Israeli withdrawal. Israel insists Syria describe the sort of peace it envisions before it will discuss any withdrawal.

Mr. Rabin asserted Wednesday that very little stood in the way of Jordan and Israel reaching total peace if Jordan was taken on its own.

"There are not a lot of obstacles — at least bilaterally — between us and Jordan in order to reach peace," he said.

Mr. Rabin devoted much of his new year interview on army radio to reassuring the Israeli public on the self-rule deal.

Still, Mr. Kaddumi is a long-time Arafat loyalist and Fatah stalwart, and PLO official said he is supporting Mr. Arafat. From Baghdad, he is expected to go to Damascus.

Iraq, like Syria, hosts several Palestinian factions opposed to the accord.

One of them, the Arab Liberation Front, said it was determined to keep its seat on the Executive Committee "to safeguard the unity of the (Palestinian) people ... and to avoid an inter-Palestinian confrontation or a civil war."

The Iraqi ruling party newspaper, Al Thawra, said "most Arab countries" attending the White House signing ceremony were responsible for the accord.

"By slaughtering the Palestinians, by putting pressure and by cutting off funds, they forced the Palestinian negotiators to sign," Al Thawra said.

In the coming weeks before moving to Jericho, Mr. Arafat would also relaunch a tour of Arab capitals and take part in a "reconciliation meeting" in Yemen of Palestinian factions for and against the autonomy accord.

Under the accord, autonomy will start on Oct. 13 in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

"We now have to go beyond the text. The important thing now is to grapple with the realities, to start doing things on the ground," said Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to Middle East peace talks.

Mr. Arafat met U.N. Secretary General Boutros Gbali in New

York on Tuesday and urged the world body to play an active role in the peace process.

"We discussed U.N. establishments in our occupied territories ... how to coordinate them so we can have more benefits," Mr. Arafat said, referring to U.N. agencies.

In response to reporters' questions about Palestinian expellees in Lebanon, he said: "Some steps have to be taken very soon," but declined to elaborate.

Mr. Arafat embraced a U.N. official as he entered the building and later he and Dr. Gbali held hands as they sat before a coffee table. Dr. Gbali had helped draft the 1978 Camp David peace accords violently repudiated by the PLO.

U.N. officials said Dr. Gbali introduced Arafat to various U.N. humanitarian and development officials who will be handling aid to occupied territories. Mr. Arafat also discussed possible U.N. election monitors for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, and Jericho.

But there was no suggestion of a U.N. peacekeeping role.

Israeli Ambassador Gad Yacobi earlier said that U.N. military observers would not be needed to help implement the agreement, adding that a new Palestinian police force should be sufficient. He added that the Israeli army would withdraw from Gaza and Jericho but would be available if needed.

Polls show majority

(Continued from page 1)

said were the PLO leader's promises to renounce the intifada.

"He did not call for an end to the intifada violence as he had promised ... he didn't even mention it," Mr. Netanyahu said. "He reneged on that promise right on the White House lawn."

He said Monday's agreement would leave the PLO in "a position to start a future war."

Mr. Netanyahu said his party wanted peace and would have any Arab genuinely in favour of peace as its partner. But he added that he believed the Israeli government had misjudged Mr. Arafat's intentions.

"I'm not questioning the motivation of the government. What I'm questioning is the judgement of the government to be able to discern Mr. Arafat's true intentions," he said.

Israeli President Ezer Weizman said Wednesday that relations between Israelis and Palestinians will never be the same again following the signing of the autonomy pact.

"We have always wanted to open a dialogue with our Arab neighbours, in particular with the

Palestinians," Mr. Weizman said in a radio address to mark the Jewish new year which begins Thursday.

"Our leaders have achieved something very important in Washington," he added.

"Nothing will ever be the same again" between Israelis and Palestinians.

Mr. Weizman also expressed a desire to see all Jews living in Israel by the year 2000.

"It is not right that two-thirds of the Jewish people should be living abroad. Before the turn of the century all Jews should be living here," he said.

The foreign ministry has sent a green light to Israeli diplomats around the world authorising meetings with PLO representatives, a senior official said.

"On Monday, over Israeli embassy in the world received instructions authorising diplomatic personnel to meet PLO representatives, who are now considered diplomats the same as the rest," the official said.

"The organisation is no longer on the black list."

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PROCUREMENT NOTICE JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY AQABA THERMAL POWER STATION-STAGE II PROJECT HEAVY FUEL OIL TANKS CONTRACT (TENDER NO. 49/93)

The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) announces that the heavy fuel oil tanks tender documents (Tender No. 49/93) for Aqaba thermal power station-stage II extension project, are available for purchase as of Wednesday, 15/9/1993.

The tender consists of the design, supply, delivery, erection and testing of three (3) heavy fuel oil tanks with a capacity of 42,000m³ each.

The project-ATPS Stage-II will be divided into four major contract packages, the boiler island, the turbine island, the civil works and the fuel oil tanks island. The bidders will be allowed to bid for one tender package, any combination thereof, or a single turnkey contract.

It is expected that Arab and international funding agencies will participate in financing the project. Procurement will be subject to the terms and conditions of the respective lending agencies.

Sealed tenders shall be submitted to the secretary of the Tendering Committee before 10:00 a.m. Amman time, Jan. 3, 1994, at the JEA office in Amman.

Tender documents for the heavy fuel oil tanks contract No. 49/93 are available from the address given below for a non-refundable fee of \$750 payable to JEA for each set consisting of two copies of the tender documents.

Jordan Electricity Authority
Zahrán Street - 7th Circle
P.O.Box 2310
Amman, Jordan
Tel: 21259, Fax: 818336

World Bank's IFC sees strong demand for help

WASHINGTON (R) — As the global economy increasingly adopts a market model, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) the World Bank's private-sector arm, is being overwhelmed by pleas for assistance, the IFC said Wednesday.

In a briefing for reporters to unveil its annual report, the IFC, which supports private-sector development in the developing world, said it expected to lend some \$2.4 billion in the financial year ending next June 30 compared with \$2.1 billion in the previous year.

"The demand very considerably exceeds our ability to supply," said IFC Executive Vice President William Rytie, adding: "This means that IFC in the future is going to have to be more selective."

He said the increased demand reflected countries that are abandoning state management of the economy and are moving towards policies that encourage the private sector as the main driving force of growth.

Mr. Rytie said that there had been a substantial increase in demand for so-called infrastructure financing such as projects in telecommunications, transportation, power generation, water supply and the like.

"These things have always been done by governments, generally speaking," Mr. Rytie told reporters, adding "(but governments are looking to the private sector to finance that because they are running short of money and because they think the private sector can do it more efficiently."

He estimated that the develop-

ing world would need about \$200 billion a year in infrastructure investment during the remainder of the decade, with some funding coming from governments, some from the private sector, and some from the IFC and the private sector.

The IFC estimated that it would borrow \$1.6 billion this year to finance its operations compared with \$1.3 billion in the prior year.

The report said that net income at the lending agency fell to \$142 million last fiscal year from \$180 million in 1992.

Officials said the decline reflected lower global interest rates that reduced the return from its portfolio as well as economic problems in Africa, the former Yugoslavia and a slower than expected rebound in Turkey's tourism.

Air France to axe 4,000 more jobs

PARIS (R) — French national airline Air France Wednesday announced a second wave of job cuts to try to stem its losses, which more than doubled in the first half of 1993.

It said it will cut 4,000 jobs by the end of 1994 on top of the 5,000 already phased out over 1991, 1992 and 1993.

It also said it made a net loss of 3.8 billion francs (\$675.6 million) in the first half of 1993, more than double the 1.5 billion (\$266.7 million) it lost in 1992's first half.

Air France said it will axe unprofitable flight routes and re-deploy resources onto routes with potential.

It will contract out activities

which can be better done by other firms, and plans to boost the productivity of its ground staff and rein in the cost of its air crews.

Ground staff will be cut by 3,000 and air crews by 1,000, it said. "A salary freeze is to be maintained."

"This rigorous plan is necessary as the first half of 1993 should show a net loss of the order of 3.8 billion francs, including a significant provision for restructuring," it said.

The measures aim to save 3.4 billion francs (\$604.5 million) in 1994 and 5.1 billion (\$906.8 million) a year from 1995.

The airline said that with cost-cutting and some asset sales it

expects to break even in 1995.

It plans to sell some of its 57 per cent holding in its Meridien hotel chain and to bring in other shareholders into its Servair airline catering subsidiary.

Air France has been hit by a slump in air traffic since the Gulf war and fierce international competition.

Last June its chairman, Bernard Attali, said the airline would need to save another three billion francs (\$537 million) to better get through the next two years.

May Transport Minister Edouard Besson said Air France could lose as much as five to 5.5 billion francs (\$982 million) this year. In 1992 the airline lost 3.27 billion francs (\$583.9 million).

UNCTAD: World trade grew slightly last year

GENEVA (AFP) — The value and volume of world trade grew slightly last year from amounts in 1991 owing mainly to activity in the United States, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) reported Thursday.

But trade in 1992, which grew by seven per cent, continued to suffer from recession compared with the average rate of growth of 9.9 per cent in terms of value between 1987 and 1991.

Trade by volume increased by 5.5 per cent in 1992 compared with 5.2 per cent in 1991 and 7.9 per cent for the whole of the period from 1987 to 1991, UNCTAD said in its annual report.

In developed countries exports grew by 7.9 per cent but imports by 8.7 per cent and increased their exports to those countries by 6.3 per cent.

The situation in developing countries varied widely according to region. Asian countries increased their exports by 8.2 per cent while Latin American exports rose by 3.2 per cent. Asian countries benefited from the mar-

ket for complex manufactured products.

They also benefited from a growth of trade within their region which had become one of the most dynamic areas for trade in the world.

Africa, excluding the countries in the far north of the continent, did not participate in the growth of world trade. Under the effect of depressed raw materials prices, the value of its exports fell by 1.1 per cent.

Eastern Europe achieved slight growth of 0.5 per cent but exports by China had increased by 14.2 per cent.

The report noted that the recession had exacerbated tension between rich countries about trade liberalisation and remained little liberalisation of trade and countries undergoing development or in a transitional stage were suffering the consequences, UNCTAD said.

Regretting that some countries, such as the United States, unilaterally took retaliatory measures, UNCTAD said that the so-called Uruguay Round of negotiations to remove barriers to world trade under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) should be concluded quickly.

The annual report said China

has shown that progressive reform towards a market economy beats the shock therapies introduced within the former Soviet Bloc.

In many countries in eastern Europe "the euphoria that greeted the collapse of communism has given way to pessimism," UNCTAD said in its annual report.

In a chapter on the potential role of China, it said that "China's economic reforms... must by any reasonable standards be regarded as a success."

Chinese growth had doubled in 1992 to a rate of 13 per cent and UNCTAD expected the rate to be 11 per cent this year.

China had begun its process of converting the economy to market practices in 1978 and its experience cast doubt on the theory that progressive reform towards a market economy was not possible.

"The economic reform have transformed China's economy into one of the most dynamic in the world," the report said.

But it had also generated episodes of imbalances and inflation and better management procedures were needed to avert "stop-go" cycles and the existing policy of "crossing the river by feeling the stones underfoot."

Clinton signs side deals to NAFTA

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton signed side deals to the North Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Tuesday, aiming to protect workers and the environment from the fallout of increased trade.

Mr. Clinton signed the deals — which his trade team struck with Mexico and Canada as footnotes to the core pact — at a high-profile White House ceremony with former presidents George Bush, Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford looking on.

"We will make our case as hard as we can and though the fight will be difficult, I deeply believe we will win," Mr. Clinton said as he formally launched his NAFTA campaign.

The agreement, which was born under the Bush administration, would link Canada, the United States and Mexico in one big free-trade zone by gradually dismantling barriers to commerce.

Due to take effect next January, NAFTA requires congressional approval, by no means a given.

Mr. Clinton had hoped — wrongly — that the side deals would win over NAFTA's many critics by instituting punishments for governments that fail to protect either worker rights or the environment. A third deal guards against sudden import surges that could disrupt sectors of U.S. industry.

Tuesday's ceremony kicked off Mr. Clinton's long-promised crusade, with Clinton extolling the virtues of linking some 360 million U.S., Mexican and Canadian consumers in one big trade zone.

Mr. Bush negotiated the agreement before losing office and now Mr. Clinton, who calls himself a new kind of Democrat, must talk up a pact which some in his administration consider an economic non-starter and a distinct political liability.

The side agreements — a Clinton campaign brainchild — failed to win over the critics as planned.

And investors, who are betting on bigger profits once Mexico is linked to its rich neighbours to the north, are now growing jittery about the pact's fate.

Worries about a delay Mexican stocks to their lowest close in nearly a month Monday, while NAFTA critics grow increasingly upbeat.

NAFTA backers are counting on Mr. Clinton to turn the tide.

IMF reserves grow to \$205 billion

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported Tuesday a record-setting fiscal 1993: The number of members jumped to 178, reserves grew to \$205 billion and a new facility was created.

According to the IMF's annual report for the financial year ended April 30, the goal of universal membership was almost reached. Micronesia's entry last June brought the fund to 178 member countries, up from 157 a year earlier.

Those new members, which brought in about \$8.9 billion, and particularly the general increase in quotas boosted total IMF reserves \$1.2 billion Special Drawing Rights (SDR), equivalent to about \$129.5 billion, to 144.6 billion SDR.

The IMF approved 11 stand-by arrangements in 1992/93 and

three extended arrangements totalling \$4.2 billion, sharply down from \$11.5 billion in the previous year.

The fund also granted four structural adjustment facility (SAF) arrangements and 20 enhanced structural adjustment facility (ESAF) arrangements for a total of \$6.5 billion.

"Demand remains very high. (There is) a large number of negotiations taking place now," said an IMF official. "It's going to rise rather sharply in the period ahead."

The IMF increased its uncommitted usable resources for the third straight year, ending in April with \$74.12 billion.

Nevertheless, to meet expected new demands, especially from eastern Europe, the fund wants to boost its resources by a new SDR allocation on the richest member countries, but several of them, notably Britain, Germany and the United States, oppose this measure.

The IMF created a temporary systemic transformation facility (STF) in April to recognise the

needs of economies in transition. Five countries — Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kirghistan, Russia and Slovenia — have used this facility, at a total of \$1.8 billion.

The IMF has also begun to consider a successor to the enhanced structural adjustment facility, aimed at low-income countries.

For the first time in a decade, the level of arrears on financial obligations fell in fiscal year 92/93 to \$4.26 billion, down from \$4.9 billion a year ago. Peru eliminated its long-standing debt.

Twelve countries are still in arrears, principally Sudan with \$1.5 billion, which has since become the first country suspended from the fund, and Zambia, at \$1.2 billion.

On the other hand, Vietnam, at \$142 million, and Cambodia, at \$51 million, were making clear progress towards clearing their debt, the report said.

The fund has increased its staff to 2,100 and reorganised its services to meet rising demand.

The 48th annual meeting of the IMF and World Bank will be held in Washington Sept. 24-30.

Du Pont to cut 4,500 from U.S. payroll by mid '94

WILMINGTON, Delaware (AFP) — Chemical giant Du Pont Co. will slash its U.S. payroll by 4,500 workers by mid-1994 to reduce costs, the company announced. Du Pont's senior vice president John Conoco said the move was necessary to keep the company competitive. The company's nylon-producing plants will be the hardest hit by the cutbacks with 1,600 jobs lost mostly in its Virginia and Delaware facilities. Other job losses would be spread through all sectors of the company excluding its energy subsidiary, Conoco, the firm said. The cutbacks are in addition to the 1,300 layoffs announced earlier this year because of streamlining and consolidation. In 1990, Du Pont employed some 133,000 people throughout the world. Since then, around 9,000 workers have taken advantage of early leave offers.

Sierra Leone government sacks 15,000 workers

FREETOWN (AFP) — Some 15,000 civil servants, mostly clerks and typists, have been sacked in Sierra Leone in a plan sanctioned by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), officials said Wednesday.

"The IMF and the World Bank have frequently urged for a cut in the bloated civil service," one official said.

By the beginning of October no daily waged clerk would remain in the country's civil service, he added. Watchmen, security personnel and technicians are not affected.

Labour officials said Wednesday that already 12,000 workers have been sacked while the remaining 3,000 will go by the end of September.

A circular issued by the state employing authority Wednesday warned all permanent secretaries and heads of department that "all appointments of all daily waged clerical officers should terminate with effect from Oct. 1, 1993."

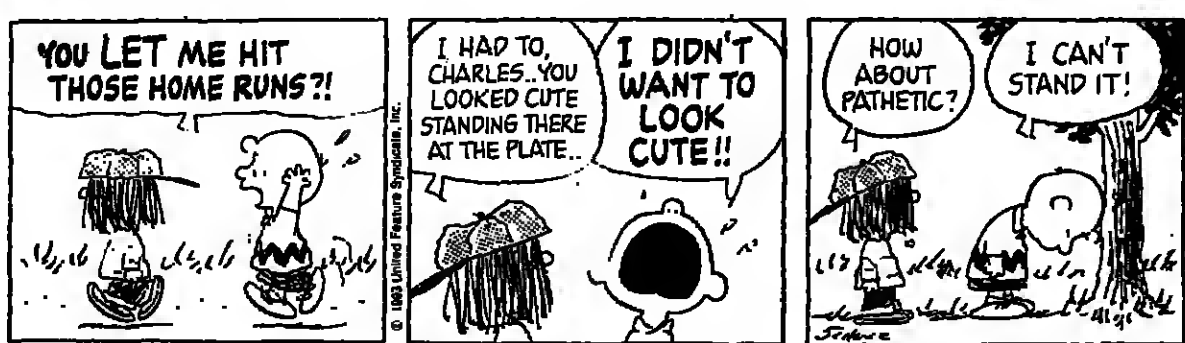
It added that permanent secretaries and heads of departments will be held personally responsible for the payment of wages to these officers if they ignore the circular and risk "facing disciplinary action as well."

Observers here said that in addition to the removal of subsidies in food and agricultural inputs, the government adopted the "lay off" policy to provide adequate salaries for workers by the end of the year.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

"What do you mean you'd like to discover my wild side? This is my wild side!"

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 1993
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: All kinds of unexpected and surprising events arise today so that you will know better where you stand with others and how you can express your own special skills to greater advantage. Allow these conditions to occur.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't let a private anxiety so engross you that you are unable to see solutions from an objective angle, later you can find ways to handle personal annoyances.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't pursue a desire that you are not sure is just what you want and later look into new ways to go after secret aims without committing yourself.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Walk easily towards whatever outside duties are expected of you and then make yourself sure you really understand friends and their attitudes toward you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think about how to best utilize a new project instead of putting out of your life, then you can be conscientious at regular duties.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You would be wise to attend to whatever obligations you have with exactness while later postpone a new venture until you know much more about it.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Think about what you can do to please a disturbed associate and then you can proceed to finish promises made but don't start new activities.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Stick to the methods that have proven satisfactory where work interests are concerned and sidestep a new undertaking until more ready for it.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Keep steadfast in your affection and devotion for your close attachment and later you find you can study, without action, yet, ways to improve work load.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Don't express any dissatisfaction at home during the day and in the evening seek pleasures that will not be a drain on your pocketbook or purse.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Think about what you can do to handle correspondence without showing annoyance, then you can look about for new ways to later improve home.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get out from under some concern about a practical, money matter then you will be able to study periodicals for ways to have more operative skill.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Don't make a friend feel unwelcome because your feelings are hurt and later look into various ways to handle oncoming financial, practical interests.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 1993
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good day to analyze the coming week so you can utilize it intelligently, arrange surroundings in perfect order and to plan for those of whom you are most fond, including charitable or philanthropic organizations.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Both friends and new acquaintances would be excellent for you during the daytime so see as many as possible but later in the day avoid one in power.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A new approach at matters of a worldly nature and where new business activities are concerned is very good for you but don't seek new outlets.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Going to some new site or interesting place with an associate can have very beneficial results but don't get into any argument with your attachment.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can now visualize the right manner in which you can get more benefits from whatever activities you are engaged in excepting in public situations.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You now can engage in some very happy entertainment with one of whom you are very fond so don't let onerous work duties keep you from enjoying yourselves.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You can get a great deal of pleasure and instruction from aiding a family member with something pertaining to home so stick to this and not seeking fun.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This can be the day to be more direct in letting usual companions know of recreations you enjoy with them and be out in the world and away from home.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Put into motion some new financial arrangements where your home and family are concerned and don't yield to temptation to dash about aimlessly.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your mind is sharp and keen to get all manner of usual activities well handled and completed but tonight avoid a temptation to spend freely.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Consulting with an expert on how best to update your material interests and practical affairs can have excellent results but don't let it on your own.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Put both your personal talents as well as your friends' helpfulness to work to obtain aims that are of first importance to you and don't encourage secret anxieties.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Consider the various behind the scenes, fascinating interests that motivate you and get one in high position to aid to get it, tonight, avoid a demanding acquaintance.

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Amiel

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PERIT
RAPEP
CAVIDE
ENDECT

BEFORE AFTER

HOW HAIR THAT WAS PARTED YESTERDAY MAY APPEAR TODAY.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: FRAUD TEASE INJURY COUGAR
Answer: What the romantic Spaniard picked in his sweetheart's garden—A GUITAR

THE Daily Crossword by Robert D. Wilder

ACROSS
1 Confusion
6 Former hush-hush
7 Stalk order
13 Chicken coop
14 Theater section
15 — of Claves
16 Writer Lope
17 Steak order
18 St. Paul's state abbr.
19 Egyptian queen
21 Tennis ace, Monica
22 Mary of the movies
23 French river
24 Greek letter
27 Put in office
29 Middle eastern
35 Verdi's opera
36 "Value —"
38 Piece
40 Tourist, e.g.
41 Parting to a blood substance
42 Watering place
44 — back (recoils quickly)
47 Levy
50 Goddesses of the seasons
51 Pharaoh
52 Mine entrance
56 On — with
57 Girasole
58 Former talk-show host
59 Km of 400
60 Ancient city of Greece
61 A Lanchester
62 Mt. address
63 Upright

DOWN
1 Kuller's friend
2 Excellent
3 Tight-lining cap
4 Senator
5 Kefauver
5 Begin
6 Speechifies
7 Scenario
8 Haggard novel
9 Parson
10 Old-scratchish
11 Kind of tube
12 Not too smart
14 East
15 Photographers' equipment
16 Hindu instruments
17 Sch. subj.
18 Small children
19 DRI, old style
20 Ancient Greek
21 Egyptian queen
22 Post by
23 Adherents; cult.
24 Cessa
27 Age
28 Soft drink
29 Strakes
30 Threadlike; prof.
34 Form
35 Of a swelling
46 Opera numbers
48 River in France
49 Drunkard
52 Domesticated
53 Canteen current abbr.
54 Cam letters
56 Red — best

Shevardnadze resumes job after parliament is suspended

TBILISI, Georgia (R) — At least nine people were killed and dozens captured Wednesday when rebels launched an assault against government forces in western Georgia, head of state Eduard Shevardnadze said.

The Georgian parliament meanwhile bowed to Mr. Shevardnadze's demands, voting to suspend its activities for two months.

Mr. Shevardnadze had threatened to quit unless deputies agreed to introduce a state of emergency and to suspend the legislature for three months.

He told parliament rebels supporting ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia mounted a big assault in western Georgia.

Mr. Shevardnadze said at least nine people were killed and

dozens taken hostage by rebels who attacked government forces in the province of Mingrelia.

He said some 800 rebels attacked army posts near Samtredi.

Georgian radio said weapons and troops were being sent to the front line to repel the offensive.

Russia's Interfax News Agency quoted an Interior Ministry press centre as saying that the fighting, which continued throughout the morning, was increasing.

Earlier this month Gamsakhurdia supporters, meeting little resistance from weak and splintered government forces, seized most of western Georgia and blocked Georgia's crucial Black Sea Port of Poti.

Deputies approved the state of emergency Tuesday and voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to

suspend their work during the two-month emergency, due to start on Sept. 20.

The resolution said Mr. Shevardnadze would run the country by decree while parliament was suspended.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia, swept from the power in December 1991, has said he will use the western region, where his influence is strong, as a springboard in his struggle against Tbilisi.

Interfax said Mr. Gamsakhurdia appealed Wednesday to Georgians to launch a protest campaign against Mr. Shevardnadze's government. The campaign would involve strikes, rallies and other acts of civil disobedience.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia, who now

lives in Russia's neighbouring Republic of Chechnya, also called on the government troops to desert and join him.

An Interior Ministry spokesman said Wednesday's attack was aimed at cutting off a crucial railway and highway, leading to Poti and to another port, Batumi.

He said the attackers, supported by armoured vehicles, were using heavy machineguns and grenade launchers.

In a separate development, Georgia's Iprinda News Agency said about a dozen gunmen attacked a training camp for Mr. Shevardnadze bodyguards near Tbilisi Wednesday.

The agency quoted the Security Ministry as saying the attack was repulsed. No casualties were reported.

Sihanouk asks for son to be main leader

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodian head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk has asked that his eldest son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, be the country's main leader, Prince Ranariddh said Wednesday.

Emerging from the first session of the National Assembly called to approve a new constitution for Cambodia, Prince Ranariddh told reporters he had received a facsimile from his father that advocated continuing with two presidents but giving one more say than the other.

Cambodia is currently run by an interim coalition government formed after Prince Ranariddh's Royalist Party was unable to win a decisive victory in U.N.-organised elections in May.

Instead of trying to run the country on their own with a margin of less than 10 seats, the Royalists opted to join forces with the party installed by Vietnam in 1979. Prince Ranariddh became co-leader with former Communist Premier Hun Sen.

"We should not call them any

more as co-presidents because there is a first president and a second president," Prince Ranariddh quoted Prince Sihanouk as saying.

Prince Sihanouk, who will almost be crowned king after the constitution restores the monarchy, is in Peking preparing to undergo surgery for a colon tumour.

"I think that the formula proposed by my father to say we continue to have two prime ministers but with a first one and the second one is much more in conformity with the result of the election," Prince Ranariddh said.

"According to members of parliament (of my party), they have said we've already made too many concessions," he said.

Assembly members, presided over by veteran politician Son Sann, spent the morning debating the constitution of about 140 articles one by one. Members said they were at about Article 3 when they broke for lunch.

So far, any changes have been

largely cosmetic, such as altering

the name of the army. Critics have complained that the final draft gives the king much more power than originally expected. For example, it makes him supreme commander of the army.

Prince Ranariddh minimised the post's importance. "The supreme command is just a nominal one, because the commander-in-chief will be the real commander and chief of the army," he said.

He added that the commander would be chosen by a council of ministers and the appointment given to the king for rubber-stamp approval.

A problem for any new government will be the Khmer Rouge, the Maoist guerrilla faction that continues to fight the unified army after opting out of the May elections.

"The Khmer Rouge, they are terrible. They are terrible," Prince Ranariddh said.

"We asked them — the door is always open to them. But on the contrary, they launch offensives," he said.

The unified army has broadcast at least two appeals to the Khmer Rouge to give up and be integrated into Cambodian society but has had no response. About one million people died under the Khmer Rouge's deadly 1975-78 experiment in total communism.

The government announced Wednesday it had retaken two positions — in Svay Le, about 60 kilometres north of Siem Reap, and Checkpoint One in Preah Vihear, on the border with Thailand.

Meanwhile, Japanese Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata arrived in Phnom Penh Wednesday on a visit to affirm Tokyo's commitment to democratic development and stability in Cambodia.

Mr. Hata was met by Ambassador Yukio Imagawa, Foreign Minister Prince Norodom Sihanouk and eight Japanese soldiers serving in Cambodia.

The force is here as part of a civilian and military contingent sent by Tokyo in its first peacekeeping mission abroad since World War II.

Mitterrand warns against N. Korea's nuclear programme

SEOUL (AP) — French President Francois Mitterrand warned Wednesday that his country would not ignore mounting nuclear tensions on the Korean peninsula and asked Communist North Korea to resolve them by accepting inspections.

Addressing South Korea's National Assembly, Mr. Mitterrand said North Korea, as a member of an international nuclear controls treaty, has the obligation to open its nuclear facilities to outside inspections.

North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons development was a major topic in Mr. Mitterrand's talks with his South Korean counterpart, Kim Young-Sam, Tuesday, the first of Mr. Mitterrand's three days here. The two agreed

to cooperate to resolve the issue. "The international community, including France, would not overlook new nuclear threats building up on the Korean peninsula," Mr. Mitterrand said in the 30-minute speech.

"South Korea's demand that North Korea fully abide by all regulations of the IAEA that it has joined on its own would be fully supported by international society," he said, referring to the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency.

Mr. Mitterrand said France, as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, is ready to support South Korea on the North Korean nuclear issue at the world body.

Some South Korean officials, increasingly disappointed at a lack of progress toward inspections in the North, want the Security Council to consider possible sanctions against Pyongyang.

Despite a hectic schedule that included a visit to an international exposition in central South Korea earlier in the day, Mr. Mitterrand looked fine as he spoke in the parliament.

A few hours after his arrival Tuesday, Mr. Mitterrand became sick and vomited, delaying summit talks with Mr. Kim by 30 minutes. He recovered after a rest.

In the nationally broadcast speech, Mr. Mitterrand also called

for closer economic cooperation with South Korea through expanded and balanced trade and speedy technology transfer.

He said France and South Korea have the potential to benefit from each other's complementary economies, especially in the fields of energy, environment, aeronautics and cars.

Two-way trade totalled \$2.2 billion in 1992, slightly in France's favour. Officials of both sides said the trade volume could double in a few years.

Mr. Mitterrand's visit, the first to South Korea by a French president, followed by weeks Seoul's choice of a French company over a German competitor for its first high-speed railway, a \$5.3 billion project.

NEWS IN BRIEF

3 die in crash at Venice airport

VENICE, Italy (R) — An Italian Air Force plane crashed at Venice airport Wednesday, killing all three crew members on board, an airport spokesman said. The spokesman said the plane was a Piaggio 808. Airport firemen put out a blaze caused by the crash. The spokesman said the aircraft, which is on the mainland side of the Venice Lagoon and away from the centre of the historic part of the city, was closed after the crash. He said officials had not yet determined the cause of the crash. The plane went down near the airport's fire station. There were no immediate reports of injuries on the ground.

Russia: Ukraine 'cut funds' to fleet

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian Navy said Wednesday Ukraine had cut off without warning all payments to support the jointly-owned Black Sea Fleet. The navy said in a statement Ukraine had acted unilaterally and without telling Russian authorities. "This is one more attempt to worsen what is already a complex situation in the Black Sea fleet," it said. Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian leader Leonid Kravchuk agreed in principle this month that Kiev would sell its share of the former Soviet Black Sea Fleet to Moscow. Details are still being worked out. In Ukraine, Anatoly Muravkov, a spokesman for the Ukrainian Defence Ministry, told Reuters Ukraine was doing everything to ensure it was financing its share of the fleet. He said Russia was deliberately hindering finance of the fleet by channelling funds through Russian banks in the Crimea instead of through the Ukrainian Navy as had been agreed.

'Some Ukrainian nuclear arms are unsafe'

MOSCOW (AP) — Temperatures and radiation have risen at a southern Ukrainian military depot because authorities have stored too many nuclear warheads in one place, Russian officials told a newspaper Wednesday. There was no immediate danger of explosion or meltdown at the site about 260 kilometres south of Kiev, Maj. Gen. Vitaly Yakovlev of the Russian military's Nuclear Ammunition Department, told the daily Izvestia. But Russian military experts who visited the depot in Pervomaisk at Ukraine's request earlier this week found "flagrant violations of nuclear safety rules," Gen. Yakovlev told the newspaper. Ukrainian military authorities denied any serious problem at the site, according to Ukrainian news reports. Gen. Yakovlev blamed the situation on the Ukrainian parliament's decision in July to claim ownership of all nuclear weapons on its territory. In apparent protest, Russia stopped maintaining the weapons, which it said would violate Moscow's commitment to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

China dissident out of jail but not free

PEKING (AP) — China's most famous political prisoner remained in police custody at an unknown location Wednesday, one day after authorities announced he had been released from prison. Wei Jingsheng's sister, Wei Lingling, said family members still were allowed to see the dissident or talk with him on the telephone, suggesting that his release from prison — part of China's bid to hold the 2000 Olympic Games — does not amount to full freedom. "They said these few days he will stay somewhere

arranged by the police," the sister said, adding that police apparently want to keep him from talking to reporters. She could not explain why even the family was barred from contact. The Public Security Ministry, which is responsible for supervising Mr. Wei outside of prison, denied knowledge of his whereabouts and insisted he was free to contact his family but could not explain why he had not done so. The Justice Ministry said, meanwhile, that another dissident, Zhai Weimin, was released from prison Monday after completing his 3½-year term. Mr. Zhai was among the student leaders of the 1989 Tiananmen Square democracy movement and was arrested in March 1990.

New York mayor wins primary

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City voters set the stage for a rematch between Mayor David Dinkins and Republican Rudolph Giuliani, while in Detroit a field of 23 candidates vying to replace Mayor Coleman Young was narrowed to two. Mr. Dinkins, the first black mayor of the nation's largest city, easily turned back Democratic primary challenges from Congress of Racial Equality Chairman Roy Innis and a third candidate. With all ballots counted, Mr. Dinkins had 346,181 votes, or 68 per cent, to 129,872 votes, or 25 per cent, for Innis. Eric Ruano Melendez trailed with 35,969 votes or 7 per cent. Mr. Dinkins, who defeated Mr. Giuliani four years ago in the closest mayoral election in city history, will face him again in the November general election in what promises to be another bitter battle. "Tonight the fight begins for the soul and future of New York," Mr. Dinkins said after his primary victory. Some polls have shown Mr. Giuliani leading Mr. Dinkins by as much as 10 per cent.

Thai premier sacks coalition partner

BANGKOK (AP) — Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai has sacked a partner in his fractious coalition following its merger agreement with opposition parties, a government spokesman announced here Wednesday. "It simply is not possible to have a coalition partner forming a merger with opposition parties," Abhisit Vejajiva said. Last week, the Social Action Party (SAP) of Montri Pongpanich signed an agreement to form a new party with four opposition groups. Referring to earlier frictions between Mr. Montri and Mr. Chuan, Mr. Abhisit said the premier had been patient since the formation of his five-party administration a year ago. But, he said, "this time...we have no other option." The spokesman confirmed the 55-year-old Chuan had invited the Seritham (Liberal Democratic) Party to join the government following the ouster of SAP.

WHO warns against new cholera strain

MANILA (AP) — The World Health Organisation (WHO) warned Wednesday that a new, virulent strain of cholera that appeared early this year in India could spread outside Asia. Dr. S. Suomela, a WHO medical officer on communicable diseases, said the first cases of the new strain appeared in India in March and later spread to China. WHO's western Pacific committee reported that people affected by the new strain exhibit the same symptoms as those suffering from other varieties — severe diarrhoea and rapid dehydration that could lead to death. "Although this new strain has to date been only reported from Asia, further spread is probable," the committee said.



Firefighters try to extinguish the blaze rising from a Lufthansa Airbus which caught fire while landing at Warsaw airport Tuesday (AFP photo)

2 die in German plane fire in Poland

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Some passengers applauded after Lufthansa Flight 2904 touched down in a driving rain shortly before dusk. Their relief quickly turned to terror.

The Airbus A320 ran out of runway Tuesday, went airborne again as it hit an embankment, then shuddered to a halt on the other side.

The left wing and engine burst into flames and snapped off. As the broken fuselage settled into the soft ground, the fire spread, engulfing the top half of the plane.

Two people — the co-pilot and a female German passenger — were killed, said Lufthansa spokesman Markus Kopp. Their bodies were recovered from the charred wreckage several hours later. They were not immediately identified.

Of the 64 passengers and six crew on board, 54 people were hospitalized. They included the pilot, two flight attendants and German ambassador to Poland, Dr. Franz Bertele, who like most of those injured were still hospitalized Wednesday.

Most of the passengers were even hand-clapping after the landing.

"Normally the plane loses speed after landing, but this plane started to go faster while on the runway. The runway ended and the plane jumped up and was ablaze. One wing broke apart."

Maurizio Boetti of Italy, a frequent flyer, said he knew something was wrong as the plane was buffeted by sudden strong winds and the landing stretched out longer than normal.

"This time it wasn't ending at all," he told the newspaper Gzeta Wyborcza. "When the runway ended...I leaned to the chair in front of me and I prepared for a shock."

The incident occurred at 5:34 p.m. as a brief, heavy shower swept over the city. Thirty-two firetrucks rushed to the scene and had the blaze extinguished within 20 minutes.

While much of the top half of the broken fuselage was badly charred, the navy blue-and-yellow tail was virtually unscathed. The cockpit windows were broken. Escape chutes hung from the plane's sides.

The newspaper Zycie Warszawy quoted unidentified air-traffic controllers as saying the plane did not touch down until two-thirds of the way down the runway.

Maciej Kalina, the head of the airport, said the controllers knew something was going wrong and informed emergency crews even before the plane hit the embankment.

"It happened in a fraction of a second after landing," passenger Marcin Bronikowski told Warsaw Radio station ZET. "There was

Poles and Germans, along with citizens of China, France, the Netherlands, Libya, South Africa and Italy.

Officials said they were baffled about what went wrong.

"It is impossible to say how it could happen," Lufthansa Chief Capt. Robert Salz told a news conference. "It was a normal landing."

Speculation focused on several possibilities: Brake failure, hydroplaning on the rain-covered runway, pilot error or a sudden tailwind gust that pushed the plane so hard that even the 2,800-metre (194-mile) strip was too short.

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U.S. sceptical of Angolan rebel offer to end war

ABIDJAN (R) — The United States said Wednesday it was sceptical of a ceasefire offer by Angola's UNITA rebels while their forces closed in on the central city of Cuito.

UNITA's professed interest in a ceasefire and renewed serious peace talks are inconsistent with the increasing intensity of UNITA's attack on Cuito," said a State Department statement released in Abidjan.

A U.S. delegation led by Ambassador Edward Brynn, deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs, is due in Ivory Coast later Wednesday for talks with UNITA members. Angola peace talks were held in Ivory Coast earlier this year.

UNITA presented a new peace plan Monday starting with a unilateral ceasefire from Sept. 20 but at the same time its forces have launched an all-out attack on capture Cuito, which has been under siege for eight months.

Diplomats said the United States, a former backer of UNITA together with South Africa, was putting its weight behind the United Nations initiative to halt the fighting.

"We have informed (UNITA leader Jonas) Savimbi of our doubts concerning his offer and the inconsistency of the talk of peace with acts of war. We are sending Ambassador Edward Brynn to Abidjan to meet with the UNITA delegation to determine the seriousness of UNITA's offer," the U.S. statement said.

It said it welcomed any step which would stop the carnage in Angola and urged the government and UNITA to ensure unrestricted access for humanitarian relief throughout the country.

The U.N. Security Council is due to meet to discuss sanctions against UNITA, which took up arms again after refusing to accept its defeat in a general election a year ago.

Draft proposals commanding widespread support call for an arms embargo, a ban on trade with UNITA and restrictions on its representatives abroad.

"We have already notified Dr. Savimbi that late peace offers will not divert international attention and will not delay serious and strong debate within the Security Council," the statement said.

UNITA delegates led by military commander General Artindo Chenda Pena "Ben Ben" met United Nations special representative Blomir Beye Tuesday at Abidjan's Foreign Ministry and agreed to continue talks Wednesday.

Diplomats said they did not expect UNITA to meet the Americans until Thursday.

Mostar hit by shelling; fighting abates in Croatia

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (Agencies) — A ceasefire, has been signed in Geneva, but U.N. officials reported Wednesday that so far it has not halted the bitter battle between Croats and Muslim-led government troops in central Bosnia.

The southwestern city of Mostar came under heavy shelling Tuesday by Croats just after the truce accord was announced, U.N. spokesman Idesbald Van Biesebroeck said Wednesday.

Bosnian radio said 10 people were killed. Mr. Van Biesebroeck said the U.N. knew of one dead and several wounded.

More than 55,000 Muslims are trapped with little food or water in Mostar, a divided city that Croats cover as the capital of a new ethnic mini-state.

UNHCR field workers say Mostar's Muslim sector now looks like "the ghastly black and white photos of Berlin after the allied bombing of World War II," said U.N. aid spokesman Ray Wilkinson.

"Life is becoming increasingly difficult," he said, reporting that 10-15 people were dying daily from shelling and sniper fire. Most people subsist on one meal a day of a "mash of beans and rice" from soup kitchens.

"The population is not starving, but the quality of food is extremely limited," he said.

At least 80 per cent of the buildings in eastern Mostar are damaged and at least half provide inadequate shelter "except in the basement or on the ground floor."

Despite the continued fighting, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees got two aid convoys into Zenica in central Bosnia — the first from the southern Croatian coast in a month, Mr. Wilkinson said.

On Tuesday, Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic and the president of neighbouring Croatia, Franjo Tudjman, agreed that fighting should stop "immediately and by no later than" Saturday. They also pledged to open routes for aid convoys.

However, several similar agreements between the two sides have failed previously. Communications with troops in the field are difficult and some local commanders have their own agendas.

At the outset of the war, Croats were allied with government forces against Bosnian Serbs who rebelled against a Muslim-Croat decision to secede from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia.

The Serbs have captured about 70 per cent of Bosnia in 17 months of war that has left up to 200,000 people dead or missing and made more than 2 million homeless.

But alliance collapsed months ago in fighting over territory in central Bosnia and around Mostar. Antipathies have grown increasingly bitter with reports of

even hand-clapping after the landing.

"Normally the plane loses speed after landing, but this plane started to go faster while on the runway. The runway ended and the plane jumped up and was ablaze. One wing broke apart."

Maurizio Boetti of Italy, a frequent flyer, said he knew something was wrong as the plane was buffeted by sudden strong winds and the landing stretched out longer than normal.

"This time it wasn't ending at all," he told the newspaper Gzeta Wyborcza. "When the runway ended...I leaned to the chair in front of me and I prepared for a shock."

The incident occurred at 5:34 p.m. as a brief, heavy shower swept over the city. Thirty-two firetrucks rushed to the scene and had the blaze extinguished within 20 minutes.

While much of the top half of the broken fuselage was badly charred, the navy blue-and-yellow tail was virtually unscathed. The cockpit windows were broken. Escape chutes hung from the plane's sides.

Jackson lawsuit expected to involve millions

LOS ANGELES (R) — The 13-year-old boy who accuses Michael Jackson of sexually molesting him has brought a civil lawsuit which is expected to seek millions of dollars in damages and go to a jury trial lasting a month or more. The suit, filed in Los Angeles Superior Court by a lawyer for the alleged victim, asks for unspecified damages on each of seven counts against Jackson.

The pop superstar, who has denied the allegations, could face a bill for several million dollars should the case go against him. Larry Fiedler, the boy's lawyer, said he expects the case to last at least a month.

A Jackson spokesman dismissed the lawsuit as "legal extortion." Jackson was in Moscow Tuesday as part of a world tour to promote his album Dangerous and there was no immediate word on his personal reaction. Jackson, also the subject of a criminal investigation over the allegations, was accused in the lawsuit of sexual battery, battery, seduction, willful misconduct, intentional infliction of emotional distress, fraud and negligence.

"Sexual battery" is the civil court equivalent of "sexual molestation" in a criminal court. Private detective Anthony Pellicano, Jackson's security consultant, said: "This lawsuit is expected. This is now a legal way to try and get the money they failed in getting the illegal way. When people try to extort you for money and they fail, the next remedy they have is a legal remedy — file a lawsuit."

The lawsuit was filed in Los Angeles Superior Court by a lawyer for the alleged victim, asks for unspecified damages on each of seven counts against Jackson.

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China reveals 'secret' behind athletics success

BEIJING (R) — Scientists in China have thrown some light on the mysterious caterpillar fungus tonic said to be at least partly responsible for the success of the nation's women runners.

Shen Liansheng of the Institute of Chinese Medicine in Beijing said the tonic, taken by world record-breakers Wang Junxia and Qu Yunxia, came from caterpillars in the grasslands of remote western Qinghai and Tibet and in a small section of Sichuan province.

Shen said the caterpillars became infected with a fungus in the winter which caused a type of grass to grow out of their dead bodies in the summer.

The Chinese name for the medicine derived from the dead caterpillars is literally "winter insect, summer grass."

Shen said the medicine was used traditionally to treat chronic diseases such as tuberculosis, kidney and liver problems.

"It is used to increase the immune system of the liver as well as the body to keep the person healthy and fit," Shen said.

But fitness does not come cheap.

The traditional medicine sells from 4,000 yuan (\$700) a kilo wholesale. But the time it reaches retail pharmacies, the price has doubled.

The two women's performances at the Chinese National Games, which ended Wednesday, sparked off accusations of doping-taking from some other runners and athletics officials.

Wang twice broke the 3,000 metres world record and took 42 seconds off the 10,000 metres world mark. Qu bettered the 13-year-old world record in the 1,500 metres.

The Chinese themselves angrily denied using drugs and their coach Ma Juren insisted that the only tonic he recommended was the one made from caterpillar fungus.

"We don't need drugs," Ma said. "We have our own tonic drink which is fully natural and tested to be free of any banned substances."

Frankfurt score 6; PSG manage win

PARIS (AFP) — German league leaders Eintracht Frankfurt took centre stage on the opening night of European competition Tuesday by hammering six goals past Dynamo Moscow.

The Russians, who have suffered a talent haemorrhage since beating Barcelona in last season's Champions Cup, game under intense pressure from the start of the UEFA Cup match.

Maurizio Gaudenzi set the first round first let up for Frankfurt with a goal after just nine minutes. And the scores kept flowing thick and fast as the Germans hounded back from their weekend shock defeat in the German Cup.

Ralf Weber and Polish international Jan Furtok made it 3-0 by half time. Veteran midfielder Uwe Bein and African strikers Augustine Okocha and Anthony Yeboah completed the rout in the second half.

The only team to come close to such a scoreline were Finnish part timers Kuusysi Lahti, who beat Waregem of Belgium 4-0.

Ismo Lius scored a goal in each half as the Finns set out for a shock to equal their famous 1-0 defeat of Liverpool in the same UEFA Cup contest two seasons ago. Liverpool fought back to win the second 6-0 though.

Parma got a fright against Decarior of Sweden as they started their defence of the Cup Winner's Cup. The Italians needed two goals in two minutes from Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla to secure a 2-1 victory after Henrik Berger put the Swedes 1-0 up in the 73rd minute.

Scandal haunted French teams made heavy weather of their start to European competition.

Paris St. Germain, who refused to take banned Olympique

Kasparov stretches lead over Short

LONDON (AFP) — World champion Garry Kasparov defeated challenger Nigel Short in the fourth game of their PCA/World Chess Championship match in London Tuesday, stretching his lead in the 24-game series to 3.5-0.5.

He has won three and drawn the fourth in the games played so far in the rival world championship, running concurrently with the official FIDE (World Chess Federation) series taking place in the Netherlands between Russia's Anatoly Karpov and the Dutchman Jan Timman.

Kasparov and Britain's Short broke away from FIDE and formed the Professionals Chess Association to organise their own championship 1.7 million pound (\$2.7 million) series at London's Savoy Theatre with sponsorship from the Times newspaper.

Short, playing white, spurned a move that would have ensured him a draw, and was then forced to defeat on the 40th move.

The fifth game will start Thursday. Kasparov playing white.

The series is due to go to 24 games whatever the individual sources. However analysts believe that Short is now playing under a serious psychological handicap from his poor start and must be considered to have almost no chance of playing himself back into the match.

"I think he was not in his usual good attacking form in the game," Kasparov commented afterwards.

"I used his hesitations and I decided not only to defend my position but also to try to counter-attack."



World Champion Garry Kasparov and British challenger Nigel Short in action during the fourth match in the World Chess Championship (AFP photo)

Karpov attacks Timman

In Arnhem, Netherlands, former world chess champion Anatoly Karpov has penetrated the heart of Jan Timman's position in the sixth game of the FIDE World Championship on

Tuesday and looks set to win, retaking the lead in the match. After five games Timman and Karpov were tied at 2.5 points each. Timman, 41, is ranked thirty places below Karpov in the world rankings but has held the initiative in most games with a clutch of carefully researched opening innovations.

Experts in Arnhem predict that it may only be a matter of time before Karpov takes the lead just prior to the match moving to Amsterdam Friday.

Christie, Jackson defend Chinese athletes

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's world athletics champions Linford Christie and Colin Jackson Tuesday came to the defence of the Chinese women whose record breaking has stunned the world.

Christie, the Olympic and world 100 metres champion, said that Wang Junxia and Qu Yunxia were "innocent until proved guilty" of drug-taking accusations.

Wang Junxia broke the 3,000m and 10,000m world records at the Chinese National Games and Qu Yunxia the 1,500m.

Christie believes the performances were the result of hard work and determination. "Instead of knocking them, we should try and find out what they are doing."

"They say they are clean and legal so maybe we should try and learn from them," he said before flying to Japan Tuesday.

"I think it is wrong that people are saying what they are saying at the moment. We just have to wait and see."

"They have been tested. They have been going through the right procedures so I believe it is wrong for us to say anything apart from that."

"The idea is to dig in and train harder. What they have done will improve athletics all round the world. Women's athletics will move on to a second tier."

Jackson, the 110 metres hurdles world champion, said: "The performances are phenomenal but in the early part of the 1980s we had 1,500 metres runners and milers who did the same thing with a few world records and nothing was said then."

"I believe they have worked hard and they have got what they have got. Until proven guilty, let's celebrate the fact that we have got new world records."

Earlier, Britain's former Olympic champion Steve Ovett spoke out in defence of China's record-breakers.

"People must stop being paranoid about it all," said Ovett who dominated middle-distance running in the eighties with Sebastian Coe.

"People have said they have come out of the blue but that just isn't the case. If people had bothered to go to China three or four years ago they would have seen these girls training very hard as juniors."

"It was the same at the world junior championships last year and it is stupid to say they have just arrived off a plane."

British athletics team manager Joan Allison joined the growing band of disbelievers Monday when she said: "I believe these girls are taking drugs."

"There's a lot of politics surrounding this, and some people in power are afraid to say what they really think — but everyone I talk to in athletics believes as I do," Allison added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Canada eyed for NBA

PALM DESERT, California (AFP) — The National Basketball Association is considering four applications for its first franchise outside the United States, all offered by Canadian groups. NBA owners concluded four days of meetings here with several announcements, including the replacement of a legends All-Star game with one including the league's first-year players, complaints of injuries among the league's former stars led to the switch. Applicants for the Canadian teams include Labatt's, a major brewery, and Frank Griffiths, who owns the National Hockey League's Vancouver Canucks. Griffiths is building a new arena in the western Canada City and wants an NBA team playing there as well. Russell Granik, deputy commissioner of the NBA, said the 27-team league could expand by two teams as early as the 1995-1996 season. Owners also tightened rules against verbal taunting and hanging from the rim.

Algeria banned from African Nations' Cup

YAOUNDE (R) — Algeria have been banned from next year's African Nations' Cup for fielding an ineligible player, the African Football Federation (CAF) announced Tuesday. Senegal will take Algeria's place. The CAF meeting in Cameroon, also decided to let Burundi and Guinea resolve their deadlock with a playoff game in Gabon October 24. The two countries have the same number of points and goals and according to CAF rules they should have drawn lots, but the Executive Committee decided to grant their request for an extra match.

Berlin Olympic sponsors attacked

BERLIN (AFP) — Three explosions damaged property belonging to sponsors of the Berlin 2000 Olympics bid committee (Tuesday). A police spokesman, who said no-one was hurt, said they suspected opponents of Berlin's bid who claim the Olympics would be a waste of money. Slight damage was reported at property belonging to Daimler-Benz, Berliner Bank and the department store Hertie.

Uruguay prepare for qualifier with Brazil

MONTEVIDEO (AP) — Uruguayan coach Ildo Maneiro faces his toughest task since taking over the national soccer team three weeks ago: How to win in Brazil Sunday to qualify for the 1994 World Cup. Uruguay returned to training Tuesday after last Sunday's 2-1 win over Bolivia, but without striker Carlos Aguilera, who was expelled and is therefore ineligible to play against Brazil. Either Daniel Fonseca, who scored the winning goal against Bolivia, or Adrian Paz, were expected to replace Aguilera and join Ruben Sosa on the front line. Fonseca received a hard blow to the head from Bolivian forward Edwin Sanchez, but he is recovering well, team doctors said. Brazil, Bolivia and Uruguay lead qualifying Group B with 10 points each. Uruguay, with the smallest goal difference of the three (plus 5), must win, or in case of a tie, hope that Bolivia falls to Ecuador, Brazil (plus 14) and Bolivia (plus 11) need only a draw to qualify.

1990 World Cup finalists meet again

MIAMI (AFP) — Defending World Cup champion Germany and Argentina, the losing finalist three years ago, will meet again December 15 here in a rematch of the 1990 game. The "champions challenge" at the Orange Bowl Stadium comes four days before the FIFA World Cup draw is to be conducted in Las Vegas, Nevada, and three days before the Germans play the United States in Palo Alto, California.

Doubles doubt for Sweden's Davis Cup team

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Anders Jarryd, one of the world's best doubles players, is doubtful for Sweden's Davis Cup semi-final against Germany in Borlaenge September 24-26. Captain John Anders Sjogren has named five players instead of the usual four in case Jarryd is not ready following a knee operation. Stefan Edberg, Henrik Holm, Magnus Gustafsson, Jarryd, and Magnus Larsson, who knocked out Germany's Boris Becker in last week's US Open, make up the squad. It was not certain Becker would break his Davis Cup boycott to play alongside Michael Stich in Germany's team.

Peugeot to enter Formula One

PARIS (R) — France's automobile Peugeot said Wednesday it would enter Formula One motor racing next year by building a V10 engine for a team to be announced soon. The sports daily L'Equipe said Peugeot would probably join forces with the Larrousse team.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
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MURDER AT THE CLUB

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A 2
♥ 10 3
♦ K 7 5 4 2
♣ A K 4

WEST
♠ Q 8 6 5 4
♥ J 8 5
♦ J 10 9 8 6
♣ Q J 2

EAST
♠ A 7 6
♥ A 7 6
♦ J 10 9 8 6
♣ 10 9 8

SOUTH
♠ K 3
♥ Q 4 2
♦ A Q 3
♣ 7 5 3

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ 1 ♠
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Six of ♠

Are your friends mystery buffs? Are they also bridge players? Here's a chance to make them happy with Matthew Granovetter's third bridge mystery, *The Bridge Team Murders* (Granovetter Books, paperback, 399 pp., \$11.95. Available from the publisher, 18 Village View Blvd., Ballston Lake, N.Y. 12019. Add \$3 for postage and handling).

This book features IMP team tactics and the hands are well selected to make key points. For example, suppose you were at the helm declaring three no trump after a spade lead. How would you proceed?

Here's what happened:
"I played low from dummy and East put in the ten, my jack winning. The hand seemed easy enough. If all went well, I had three spades, five diamonds and two clubs: 10 tricks. Now what if the diamonds divided 4-1?"

"I had to unblock the ace of spades, but I couldn't cash the king before giving up a diamond. Nor could I cash the ace-queen of diamonds without losing an entry to the king of spades."

"The solution was a 'perfect' safety play. (After cashing the ace of spades) I would duck a diamond — West showed out — East led back a club. (Down one.)"

"The real safety play in diamonds was to protect against 4-1 and 5-0. Win the jack of spades, unblock the ace, cash one high diamond in hand and, if everyone follows, duck a diamond. When West shows out on the first round, there is still time to duck a club and take advantage of a 3-3 club break."

While all this is going on, bridge players are being dispatched with some regularity. A good read, interesting bridge.

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Paris hails Jordan-Israel agenda and pledges help

Combined agency dispatches

PARIS (Agencies) — France Wednesday welcomed the signing of Israeli-Jordanian peace agenda and expressed the hope that "similar progress" would be made in talks between Israel and Lebanon and Syria.

A spokesman for the French foreign ministry, Richard Duque, said the signing of the peace agenda was "a new step towards peace and France welcomes it."

The agenda signed Tuesday will set up a framework for talks between Israel and Jordan with the aim of working out a peace treaty.

It followed Monday's signing in Washington of an accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) granting limited autonomy to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

"France which has always supported the peace process can only rejoice at recent events and in particular in the signing of the Israeli-Jordanian accord."

"We also hope that similar progress will be made in talks between Israel and Lebanon, and Israel and Syria."

He added France was looking at a proposal by U.S. President Bill Clinton to hold a conference between donor countries to discuss investments in the occupied territories (See page 2).

And Mr. Duque added that the European Community, which has made considerable effort to help economic development in the area, had a special responsibility to help co-ordinate aid to the region.

France said Tuesday it would send experts to the Gaza Strip and Jericho in the next few weeks to draw up with local Palestinian leaders a list of development projects that Paris will finance.

Doves symbolising Middle East peace were released from the steps of the Paris opera house on Tuesday.

Eyewitnesses said several hundred people gathered in pouring rain to take part in the rally organised by the Union of French Jewish students.

Small groups of Arab students were also present, the eyewitnesses said.

In Seoul, visiting French President Francois Mitterrand said he was "optimistic" about the chances of a peace agreement between Israel and Syria.

"When there was the obstacle of a latent war, sometimes violent, between Israel and the Palestinian population. That might have been a pretext for Arab solidarity with Syria," he told a press conference.

"This period has largely passed, and I am, from this point of view, optimistic," he said.

"Everyone knows that between Jordan and Israel and the PLO, all it needed was a new element with a constructive character to emerge so that an accord could take shape."

This week's developments, the French leader said, could speed up a breakthrough between Israel and Syria.

"We already know the elements — essentially, the Golan Heights and measures that need to accompany the end of all threats — to the security of Israel," he said.

China "welcomed" the accord on Palestinian autonomy but said a definitive solution to the Middle East question "remains an arduous task."

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said the accord was "a breakthrough in the Middle East peace process," adding that China "welcomes this development and appreciates the wise and pragmatic position of the Palestinian and Israeli leaders."

However, she added, "a comprehensive and just settlement of the Middle East issue remains an arduous task. We hope that the parties concerned will continue their efforts to this end."

Saudi endorsement

Saudi Arabia Wednesday gave a vote of confidence to the PLO and Mr. Arafat.



RABIN IN RABAT: King Hassan II (right) of Morocco shows Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (left) and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres the way after he greeted them upon their arrival Tuesday (AFP photo)

Pro-establishment parties welcome agenda; Islamists, leftist criticise it

By Suhair Obeidat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Pro-establishment Jordanian political parties Wednesday welcomed Tuesday's signing of an agenda setting out the principles for a peace agreement between Jordan and Israel, but Muslim fundamentalist groups and leftists criticised it.

The fundamentalists and leftists, however, appeared to reserve harsher criticism for the autonomy agreement signed Monday between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

While expressing "extreme grief" at the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace agenda, the Islamic Action Front, the political arm of the powerful Muslim Brotherhood, pledged to mobilise the "Islamic Nation" against the PLO-Israel deal.

"We demand that the Jordanian government not recognise the occupying entity..." IAF Secretary-General Ishaq Al Farhan told a press conference.

"We call upon the Jordanian people to unite to fight the

Zionist project and the effects of normalising relations with it," he read from a prepared statement.

Dr. Farhan also criticised what he called government suppression of the opposition and detention of a number of young men who staged protests and sit-ins and said "in times of democracy, the government should not act in this manner."

He did not give a specific number of those detained. Nor did he say where or when the protests took place.

"We oppose the whole peace process and the principle of negotiating with it... and we have prepared a political agenda which includes escalating the opposition and mobilising the nation into jihad (holy war)," said Dr. Farhan, a member of the appointed Upper House of Parliament.

The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), in a strongly worded statement Wednesday blasted both agreements, accusing PLO Chairman Arafat of "betraying the Palestinian people and the move as a 'stab in the heart of the uprising'."

Azmi Khawaja, member of

the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, expressed his party's rejection of the two agreements saying "it is a step towards liquidating the Palestinian based on Israeli and American terms which will eventually open up the Arab markets to Israeli goods and investment."

The Jordan People's Democratic Party also rejected the Israeli-Jordanian agenda, arguing that "it threatens Jordan's peace, sovereignty and interests and a renunciation of Jordan's official stand vis-a-vis the Palestinian cause."

The head of the nationalist party Al Abd, Abdul Hadi Majali, welcomed the move.

"This is a good step... it states Jordan's concerns and needs and ends the idea of Jordan's concerns and needs and ends the idea of Jordan as the alternative Palestinian homeland," Dr. Majali was quoted by Reuters.

"The agenda is a step in the right direction after Israel and the PLO reached their accord," Majali Khurshah, head of the Jordanian National Front, told Reuters.

Somali gunmen kill two Italians

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Two Italian peacekeepers serving with United Nations forces were shot dead near Mogadishu port on Wednesday, Italian military sources said.

The Italians were apparently fired on by gunmen from the vicinity of a prison overlooking the port soon after dark.

Initial reports of the incident were still confused. But it seemed that Somali gunmen were responsible, not fellow peacekeepers from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) earlier said to have mistaken the Italians for Somali militiamen, the sources said.

A few minutes later, U.S. soldiers guarding the port reportedly fired by mistake at a convoy of Italian military vehicles trying to rescue the soldiers.

One Italian soldier was killed instantly and the other died of his wounds while being flown to a U.S. field hospital by an Italian helicopter, the sources said.

The death brought to 48 the number of U.N. soldiers killed here since 24 Pakistani troops were slain on June 5, allegedly by militia of fugitive warlord Mohammed Farah Aided.

The U.N. has put a \$25,000 reward on Gen. Aided's head.

The report came after a U.N. spokesman said Somali militiamen fired mortars into the United Nations base in Mogadishu, wounding eleven people including six civilian U.N. employees and five U.N. soldiers.

Meanwhile, U.S. helicopter gunship fired at four Somali militiamen in a pickup truck, killing two of them as one prepared to fire at the helicopter, Captain McDavitt said.

Mortars or rifle-propelled grenades also fell in two other parts of Mogadishu, killing a child and wounding 17 other Somalis, he said.

Major David Stockwell denied that U.N. peacekeepers had fired the mortars, which fell near Gen. Aided's former headquarters and near a checkpoint also in Gen. Aided's south Mogadishu stronghold.

Italian peacekeepers Wednesday abandoned the checkpoint near a pasta factory where militiamen killed seven Nigerian soldiers and took another hostage 10 days ago.

The area swarmed with armed Somalis who erected barricades of burning tyres. But U.N. spokesman said they did not know the Italians had left Checkpoint Pasta.

Independent Somali sources speculated that gunmen loyal to Aided may have misfired some rounds which fell near the checkpoint. Rival Somali factions may also have exchanged fire after the Italians withdrew, they said.

Italy, which has 2,600 troops in Somalia, decided to quit the capital after three Italian soldiers were killed at Checkpoint Pasta in July.

Rome opposes the U.S.-led attacks against Gen. Aided and favours dialogue.

The Italians agreed to delay their redeployment outside Mogadishu after the killings of the Nigerians.

Several hundred Aided supporters including women and children stoned Pakistani troops at other two checkpoints.

Column

Mother Teresa expected to leave hospital Friday

CALCUTTA (R) — Mother Teresa is expected to leave a Calcutta hospital Friday after what doctors said was routine supervision during a mild fever. "Mother is fine. She is resting and the fever is gone. She will continue to rest in hospital today and tomorrow and we expect her to leave hospital on Friday," a sister of Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity said Wednesday. Mother Teresa, 83, who has had a heart pacemaker since 1989 and has been in hospital several times since with heart problems, suffered a malaria attack in New Delhi last month. Doctors at the B.M. Birla Heart Research Centre, where Mother Teresa was taken Monday, said they wanted to ensure the mild fever did not turn into malaria again. "When she came to the hospital she had a mild fever, but that was just a passing thing," said Colonel A.K. Chatterjee, the hospital administrator. "Her temperature came down immediately. We just wanted to ensure that the malaria she had in New Delhi does not recur," he said.

Polish wartime leader repatriated from Britain

WARSAW (R) — The remains of General Wladyslaw Sikorski, Polish prime minister and army chief in World War II, were flown home after lying in an English cemetery for half a century. The plane carrying the coffin landed in a Polish presidential jet at Warsaw's military airport just minutes after a Lufthansa airliner crashed on landing at Okęcie Airport, about 500 metres away. Gen. Sikorski's coffin was taken to a Warsaw cathedral, where Polish primate Cardinal Jozef Glemp led a mass attended by President Lech Walesa and Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka. Gen. Sikorski's remains will lie in state until they are taken to the former capital of Krakow for interment in Wawel Castle on Friday beside Poland's dead monarchs. The coffin was given a farewell salute at a Royal Air Force Base near Newark in central England Tuesday after being exhumed from an air force cemetery Monday. Two British Tornado jet fighters escorted the plane on its flight.

Deng biography goes on sale in Taiwan

TAIPEI (AP) — In another sign of eased tensions between China and Taiwan, a new biography of Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping will go on sale here next week, complete with scathing criticism of Taiwan's late president, Chiang Kai-Shek, the publisher said. "My Father, Deng Xiaoping," by the 89-year-old Communist leader's daughter Deng Rong, will be reprinted verbatim in 100,000 copies for the Taiwan market, said Wei Cheng-Kung, president of Global Publisher Co. Chiang moved his Nationalist Chinese government to Taiwan in 1949 after being overthrown by Mao Tse-tung's Communists. Until 1987, mainland Chinese publications were banned in Taiwan, as was criticism of Chiang. Chiang died in 1975. Taiwan has moved toward greater democracy in recent years. Nevertheless, when a local newspaper, the China Times, excerpted the Deng biography, it deleted portions critical of Mr. Chiang. Purchasers of the full book will read accusations that Chiang's rule of China was "dictatorial" and that its "fendal and corrupt" ways gave the Communists their victory.

Solzhenitsyn: Communism is alive and well in CIS

SCHAAN, Liechtenstein (AFP) — Communism is far from dead in the former Soviet Union, Nobel Prize winning writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn said here. "Millions of senior Communist officials remain in the wings, while the roots of communism remain deeply embedded in the mentality and daily life of the people," Mr. Solzhenitsyn told the International Academy of Philosophy during a ceremony in which he received an honorary doctorate. The writer who has been based in Vermont, United States, since his expulsion from the Soviet Union in 1974 — arrived in Liechtenstein Tuesday morning with his wife Natalia at the start of a five-week tour of Europe. Now 76, he has said he plans to return to Russia next year having always wanted to die in his native land. After Liechtenstein, Mr. Solzhenitsyn is due to spend two weeks in France, and then go on to Britain and Germany.

Defence in Muta plot trial questions court's jurisdiction

By Sana Attiyyeh

Special to the Jordan Times

MARKA — The public trial of 10 men accused of plotting to assassinate His Majesty King Hussein resumed at the State Security Court Wednesday with defence lawyers requesting the unconditional release of the defendants, citing "illegal methods" used by the security authorities to detain and interrogate the suspects.

In addition to charges of conspiring to kill the King and replacing the regime with an Islamic caliphate state, the 10 suspects, two of whom are being tried in absentia, are charged with belonging to an illegal group, the Islamic Liberation Party (ILP) Hezb Al Tahrir Al Islami, and trying to "change the Constitution through illegal and violent means."

The prosecution charged that five of the suspects — students at Muta University, a military academy 130 kilometres south of Amman — were recruited by the ILP to kill the Monarch at a graduation ceremony on June 26. The alleged plot was discovered in April, and more than 30 people were detained at the General Intelligence Department (GID), but most of them were released in August.

The ILP has categorically denied any involvement in the alleged plot, and two of its senior members are still detained but are not being tried in this or any other case.

Speaking on behalf of seven of the defendants, lawyer Saleh Armouti described the charges as "null and void," and requested that the suspects be "immediately

released from custody."

Reading from a seven-page presentation, Mr. Armouti told the court that the GID was not the authorised body to issue and carry out the arrests, detentions and interrogations of the suspects.

The lawyer insisted that the charges against his clients were "null" because the confessions and testimonies of the defendants were taken under "extreme forms of physical and psychological torture during their detention at the GID."

At the opening of the trial last Thursday, Colonel Hafez Amin, the judge presiding over the three-man military tribunal, approved a defence request to appoint a doctor and psychiatrist to conduct medical check ups on the defendants and report any signs of torture, and asked lawyers to submit individual requests for each defendant.

Mr. Armouti told the Jordan Times after the session adjourned Wednesday that individual requests were made on behalf of some of the defendants last Sunday, but was awaiting the court's approval to send the doctors to visit the prisoners. He said the defence requested that a civilian doctor be appointed for the purpose.

In the crowded courtroom, Mr. Armouti also insisted that the trial of this case was not under the constitutional jurisdiction of the State Security Court, saying that this court fell under the authority of the executive branch rather than the judicial.

He referred to the Kingdom's constitution, which separates the three independent branches — the executive, legislative and judicial.

The defence had refused to enter the defendants' guilty or not guilty pleas until the lawyers presented their objections to the court against continuing the trial.

Prosecutor Major Mohammad Hijazi presents his presentation Thursday before the court decides whether to accept or reject the defence objections. If the court overrules the objections, the defendants will enter their pleas before evidence is heard.

Speaking on behalf of one of the defendants, who was a member of the Royal Escort unit, attorney Omar Dumra read out a 10-page presentation repeating Mr. Armouti's arguments, but he stressed on the issue of alleged torture his client underwent during his detention at the GID.

Although Col. Amin tried to cut off Mr. Dumra, asking him to present his objections during the course of the trial, the judge decided to hear his 20-minute presentation upon the lawyer's insistence.

"My client was forced to confess to a crime he did not commit," Mr. Dumra contended. "Therefore, his confession is null and void because it was forced on him."

Mr. Dumra referred to legal and Islamic Sharia texts on violations of human rights, as well as speeches made by King Hussein regarding the protection of human rights and individual freedoms.

At the end of the hour-and-a-half session, the defendants were escorted out of the court room. But, unlike the first day, their hands were not cuffed until they were taken outside to the security van which took them back to detention.

Two Egyptians sentenced to death

CAIRO (AFP) — Two young Islamic militants were condemned to death on Wednesday for an attack on an Egyptian army general in which four people were killed, sparking calls for President Hosni Mubarak's assassination.

Mustafa Auni Zaki and Mahmoud Salah Fahmi were among eight defendants on trial since Aug. 23 at the military court in Cairo.

"Allah Akbar. We will go to paradise. But you, Mubarak, the day will come when one of our brothers will kill you as well as the president of this court," warned Fahmi as the sentence was read out.

The 21-year-old from the southern province of Asyut, a hotbed of Muslim fundamentalism, was arrested at the scene of the attack on July 18.

The other militant sentenced to death, Mr. Zaki, 21, took off his

robe to appear all in red — the colour worn by convicts on death row just before the hanging — in the cage for the defendants.

Four other defendants — all members of the underground Al Gama Al Islamiyya of Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, who faces terrorist charges in New York — when sentenced to life terms of hard labour, including three tried in absentia.

Two were acquitted, among them one of the ringleaders.

In the attack, gunmen opened fire on the car of General Osman Shabih in the old Cairo district. The army general escaped injury but a policeman and a passerby were killed, and two of the assailants also died in a gunbattle.

The militants had mistaken Gen. Shabih for Gen. Ahmad Abdullah, the president of Cairo's military courts who issued 13 death sentences against Islamic

militants between April and May.

The attack came a day after five militants were hanged for an aborted assassination bid against Information Minister Safwat Al Sharif and bombings at tourist sites.

The eight defendants on Wednesday were also accused of membership of an illegal organisation aimed at overthrowing Mr. Mubarak's secular government as well as possession of arms and explosives.

Egyptian courts have now sentenced to death a total of 28 Islamic militants since December. Fifteen have been executed over the last four months.

Islamic fundamentalist activists have faced the death penalty since strict anti-terrorist laws passed in 1992 to curb an escalation in anti-government attacks.

Jericho — where history began and is being made

By Marianne M. Shalhin

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JERICHO — Since Jericho loomed into the limelight a month ago with reports of the "Gaza-Jericho first" proposal as the key to a breakthrough in the Middle East peace talks, the town has become a media sensation. Hundreds of visitors, ranging from journalists and camera crews and political analysts have been touring this ancient city, reflecting on what the town is all about in contemporary times.

Journalists and commentators have labelled Jericho a "sleepy oasis," the new kingdom of Arafat, the capital of Palestine and given varying descriptions.

Seven kilometres west of the River Jordan, Jericho is widely believed to be not only the lowest on earth (250 metres below sea level) but also the oldest continually inhabited place in the world. An oasis town with an unusual climate of local springs have made it into an agricultural heartland with large patches of green.

It was a flourishing centre of trade in the days when what was to become the Holy Land was called neither Israel nor Palestine but Canaan in 3000

B.C. The history of Jericho, however, is believed to be much much older, dating back some 12,000 years.

The main thoroughfare of downtown Jericho, "Ain Al Sultan street," is a modest souq of fruits, clothing and some hardware. It boasts of the once luxurious 1920-hill hotel, Hisham's Palace. Its pool and garden are now empty, but plans to bring the hotel back to life have already begun in preparation of better days to come.

When compared to most other West Bank towns, Jericho has the most harmless record as far as resistance to the Israeli occupation is concerned. Its residents are traders, small shopkeepers, tourist guides and farmers. That is not to say that Jericho does not have intifada heroes or that its children have not been shot at and imprisoned for throwing stones against the occupation.

Education does not appear to be an overall priority, although many of the native Jericho residents went to universities in Egypt and are trained engineers, accountants and teachers. Most work in trade or agriculture, however.

About 10 per cent of Jericho's current 17,000 to

20,000 residents are indigenous. Like the natives of Jordan's Ghor region, the natives of Jericho are mostly half breeds of Arabs and Arabised Africans who settled in Jericho throughout the centuries at various stages of the spread of Islam.

Most of the rest are Hebrews and refugees from the 1948 war.

The community is almost exclusively involved in farming and trading and strictly capitalist in nature. The town itself has about 7,500 inhabitants, but local estimates always include the outlying areas when asked to give the number of residents.

Muslim fundamentalism in the form of Hamas or Islamic Jihad are not in evidence. Although some women in the Jericho region do wear headscarves, most do not seem to be overly religious. A semi-liberal small-town atmosphere appears to reign in what is expected to be the first part of the occupied West Bank to be handed over to Palestinian control.

Although the Gaza-Jericho first plan is now official and signed, most Jericho residents still feel it is a dream and wonder why they have been "chosen" as the first to be

"liberated" in the West Bank. Since Monday Sept. 13, 1993, the Palestinian flag began to fly over Jericho.

The coffee houses and outdoor restaurants, which are the favourite weekend vacation spots for Palestinians in winter, were decked with Palestinian flags and picture of Yasser Arafat on September 13.

The questions on the minds of people in Jericho are many. Who will come to the town? When will they declare a state? Will the Arafat men order them around or draw them into the ruling circle? Will Palestinians all over the world come and buy land and invest in Jericho? Will the residents of Jericho be in charge of tourism?

These were the questions and comments heard in Jericho as the Gaza-Jericho plan began to materialise in smoked-filled rooms in Tel Aviv and Tunis and as papers were signed in Washington.

Many parts of the 395 square kilometres that make up the district of Jericho house fertile banana farms. Other fruits and vegetables are also grown and have been exported mainly to Europe in the last five years. Property owners range from the wealthy Jerusalem families to the natives of Jericho as well

as many Transjordanians. Industries have thus far been far from the people's minds but locals are eager to jump into any industrial plan proposed to them.

Not all of Jericho is expected to come under Palestinian rule in the initial stages, however. The exact size of the Jericho that will come under Palestinian rule in accordance with the Gaza-Jericho plan is still not known. Enveloped in the 395 square kilometres are 19 Jewish settlements and two Palestinian refugee camps, housing the remainder of 1948 refugees that did not assimilate or flee to Jordan during the 1967 war.

The settlements contain several thousand settlers at most but locals feel that it is unlikely that these settlers will move or will allow the Israeli government to move them.

As long as the settlers return confiscated lands, leave the locals alone and do not start shooting, spears, they are free to stay most locals say. There has been relatively little conflict between settlers and local residents.

Nevertheless, there are reservations about the graduality of Israeli withdrawal and how complete self-rule will be. Most residents of Jericho

would like to believe that the Gaza-Jericho first plan is phase one to Palestinian statehood in the areas Israel seized in the 1967 war.

Some residents are already grooming themselves to become tourist guides. Tourism is an industry controlled exclusively by Israelis for the last 25 years. Ruling out any international Palestinian scuffles over the Gaza-Jericho plan, local residents believe there will be a tremendous boom in the economy.

Tel Al Sultan or ancient Jericho is where a neolithic tower that dates from 7000 B.C. can still be admired. Here the remains of some 23 cities, built on top of one another, have been discovered. While it looks like an open space, archaeologists have discovered neolithic remains including 10 skulls in this ancient city. Most of the archaeological artifacts are housed in Israeli museums.

The Omayyad-built Hisham's Palace is probably the most splendid of all of Jericho's sites. Built in 743 A.D., the remains of Hisham's palace, named after the Omayyad Caliph Hisham Ben Abdul Malik, the remains include pink and blue mosaic

floors, water ways and colonnades.

The only tourist site in Jericho where one does not have to pay an entrance fee is Qumruntul or the Monastery of Temptation. Run by the Greek Orthodox Church, the monastery, which is built into a mountain and lies about 350 metres above Jericho, is a great piece of 19th century architecture. From the monastery's balcony one can get an excellent view of all of Jericho, oases, settlements and refugee camps included. Here Jesus was said to have spent 40 days in meditation in one of the original caves after he was tempted by the devil.

There is room for vast agricultural expansion, a small tourist industry and a winter homes and vacation resorts for the wealthy and less-wealthy alike in this ancient town. Locals take to heart their town's place in history, said one hardware shopowner. "There was a time in history where the Jewish tribes entered the Holy Land via Jericho. In this phase of history, however, it is the Palestinian tribe that will return to the Holy Land via this ancient town."

"Welcome home Ahn Ammar, welcome home!"